Nation Chair, Kathryn Teneese

Kiʔsuk kyukyit Ḍapiniskiⱡ, this past year has been challenging as we continue to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and for the most part were working remotely. Although it has been challenging I am happy to see the perseverance in our ability to successfully adapt. Both the Ktunaxa Nation Executive Council and KNC staff worked remotely and held all of their meetings virtually.

As many of you know the Ktunaxa Nation Executive Council (KNEC) is made up of the four Nasuʔkins and the five Sector Chairs. For the 2021/22 fiscal year the KNEC was represented by:

- Nasuʔkin Ryan Nicholas
- Nasuʔkin Joe Pierre
- Nasuʔkin Jason Louie
- Nasuʔkin Heidi Gravelle
- Social Investment Sector Chair Corey Letcher
- Traditional Knowledge and Language Sector Chair Julie Birdstone
- Education & Employment Sector Chair Garrett Gravelle
- Lands & Resources Sector Chair Sandra Luke
- Economic & Investment Sector Chair Josie Fullerton

In April 2022 Donald Sam took office as Nasuʔkin and I want to congratulate Donald and extend my gratitude and thanks to Ryan Nicholas for his contributions during the 2021/22 fiscal year. An additional change that has taken place in the new fiscal year, Jason Andrew was appointed as the Lands & Resources Sector Chair. Thank you to Sandra Luke for her contributions as the Lands & Resources Sector Chair.

I would like to take this time to recognize and appreciate all of the hard work of both the elected leadership and staff in their achievements and accountabilities to diligently support the work they have done to help us move forward in achieving our Vision Statement.

A few highlights include, Yaqan Nuʔkiy and the Social Investment Sector have been working with First Nations Health Authority on the capital development to build the Treatment Center and this is important to have not only for our people, but for other Indigenous people. The Economic Summit took place in March which brought together the Sector Council, Ktunaxa Businesses and citizens together to celebrate one another and share their interests and needs. ¿a·knusti have brought significant Ktunaxa presence and integration of our worldview across the KNC to ensure there was meaningful inclusion to support stewardship aspirations. There are a many noteworthy initiatives to celebrate, these are just a few of the initiatives that will be shared with you throughout this report.

Staff transitioned back to the office in May 2022 and have once again adjusted to the changing times. Thank you all for your diligence and commitment. I would like to commend you all for your achievements this past year.

I am happy to have the opportunity to gather again at an in-person in Yaqan Nuʔkiy at this Annual General Assembly. It is important for Ktunaxaniʔtik to come together to celebrate
Chief Administrative Officer, Codie Morigeau

Kiʔsuʔk kyukyit ᖲʔapiniskiʔ. I am excited and honored to be providing Ktunaxa ?aqismaknik this year’s AGA Report as the new KNC Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Thank you to Nasuʔkin Louie for allowing us to gather in Yaqan Nuʔkiy for this year’s event and in providing us with the theme: awumu. What a fitting theme as we come together after two long years enduring the pandemic. I know for myself, being able to reconnect physically has really heightened my gratitude and deepened my awareness of our interconnectedness and collective resilience.

The Ktunaxa Nation Executive Council made a decision in 2018/19 to hire a CAO for the purpose of assisting in finding and mentoring a Ktunaxa person into the role of CAO. Shawna Janvier was hired as CAO to take on this task. In the spring of 2021, I applied for the CAO mentee opportunity. An extensive selection process took place I was the successful candidate and I was hired as the KNC CAO Mentee beginning in September 2021. I transitioned into the full responsibilities of CAO in November 2021. I am truly grateful for this opportunity. I love my Nation, I love our communities, I love our people, our ceremonies, our language, and our culture. Our uniqueness and our collectiveness brings strength to each of us in everything that we do. I believe in what we are striving to achieve, a brighter future for ourselves and our future generations.

I am honoured to have this opportunity and I take this role and responsibility very seriously. Each and every day that I serve this role I maintain focus and commitment to the guiding principle of ᖲʔapi qapsin kin ᖲʔitkiʔ niʔisti Ktunaxa (Everything we do, we do for Ktunaxa). I have the utmost respect for our leadership. This respect guides me to appreciate the significance of the relationships to ensure that I understand and can act upon the governance decisions and align our administration.

In September 2021, I began my mentorship by visiting ᖲʔakisʔnuk, ᖲʔaʔam, Yaqan nuʔkiy and yaʔit ᖲʔa-knuqṭliʔ it and speaking with their Nasuʔkin, Council and/or Administrators to understand what frustrations and successes exist and need attention. This helped prepare and ground me for the work to come. The leadership from ᖲʔakisʔnuk, ᖲʔaʔam, Yaqan nuʔkiy and yaʔit ᖲʔa-knuqṭliʔ it all agreed that the primary focus must be on the desired changes of the leadership. To date, five leadership meetings comprised of a quorum of each council was held in January, February and March of 2022. This work carries over into the 2022/23 fiscal year as we strive to achieve the desired change.

From September 2020 through to September 2021, the KNC Directors Reassignment occurred under the direction of Shawna Janvier with a goal of increasing appreciation and understanding of other sectors, and to promote collaboration and innovation. Shawna envisioned this as an opportunity to demonstrate
leadership, curiosity and mutual appreciation, all of which resonate with Ktunaxa values.

As a Director in both Education and Employment and TKL, I led the completion of the KNC Employee Guide during this period of reassignment. This Guide is important to balance the Ktunaxa and Indigenous ways of knowing with KNC policy that is understandable and concise for employees. The policy clearly articulates the main purpose for each employee of the KNC - Q̓api qapsin kin ?itkin hin ?isti Ktunaxa (Everything we do, we do for Ktunaxa). Additionally, it provides foundational introductions to the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada, relevant legislation, Ktunaxa milestones and quotes from our Elders. The intent for the policy is to provide the framework to shift the KNC workplace culture to be more aligned with the Ktunaxa values and vision and to enable pathways for Ktunaxa capacity development.

It is exciting to see and support the evolution of the KNC, particularly the commitment of Directors and staff to meet the goals of collaboration; alignment with ?akis̓q̓nuk, ḭaq̓am, Yaqan nuʔkiy and yaq̓it ʔa·knuqⱡiʾit Leadership through the Ktunaxa Nation Executive Council (KNEC) and supports the coordination functions for their meetings and initiatives as well as holding the responsibility to take Leadership decisions for implementation. Shawna Janvier had been working with leadership this past year to respond to a call for change from Ktunaxa First Nations. Defining a path forward for the collective and individual Ktunaxa First Nations interests is some of the most critical work at this time, and requires the time, space and resilience to pursue and achieve. I honor the leadership for the work to date and recognize that there is much yet to be discussed and determined. Currently the focus remains on the review and revamping of the KNCS Constitution and Bylaws.

The KNEC is the decision making governance body for the KNC; it is comprised of the four Nasuʔkins, the five Sector Chairs and the Nation Chair. The KNEC meets on the third Thursday in January, March, May, September and November. The CAO reports to the KNEC and works with the Finance Board.

The Finance Board meets on the Monday preceding the KNEC meetings in January, March, May, September and November. The Finance Board is made up of the four Nasuʔkins and two Ktunaxa representatives as non-voting members. The non-voting members this past year was Sophie Pierre and Jordon Sam. Jordan Sam stepped down to concentrate on his studies and we are grateful for his contributions. Two additional youth stepped forward in 2022: Jaylin Louie and Ryan Phillips-Clement who are now both non-voting youth representatives to the Finance Board.

This past year also saw the pausing of the Treaty process in the fall of 2021. At this time Leadership has not determined a path forward as the collective. As the CAO, it is my responsibility to ensure that KNC Operations continue to provide the time needed ʔakis̓q̓nuk, ḭaq̓am, Yaqan nuʔkiy and yaq̓it ʔa·knuqⱡiʾit to have discussions
with their members and amongst themselves as the 20 Leaders. Good decision making requires thorough assessment, research, contemplation, and discussion. I respect the leadership and their ability to do this due diligence and to provide direction that will satisfy the interests of today and the securities for the generations to come.

**Sector Councils**

I have made attending all Sector Council meetings a priority to listen, learn and understand the activities, successes and challenges each sector faces. This is important to ensure that I have an understanding to see what is important to ḥakisḵnuk, ḥaq̓am, Yaqan nuʔkiy and yaq̓it ḥa-knuq̓iʔit; to identify linkages; and to provide information and updates to ḥakisḵnuk, ḥaq̓am, Yaqan nuʔkiy and yaq̓it ḥa-knuq̓iʔit. In supporting the Directors and Sector Councils I strive to strategically consider how the work of the sectors can be driven by what is important to each Ktunaxa First Nation.

**Ktunaxa Land Stewardship**

The Ktunaxa creation story and ḥa-knumuʔt̓iⱡiⱡ speak to the responsibilities that Ktunaxa ḥaq̓ismaknik having in stewarding Ktunaxa ḥaʔamakʔis. Our leaders, knowledge holders, land users, citizens and Elders are all sharing deep concern for the ecological health of Ktunaxa ḥaʔamakʔis as well as the continuous threats of encroachment by industry and neighboring First Nations. As the CAO, it is my duty to understand the complexities of the situation; to understand the various perspectives, concerns and ideas that are coming forward; and to make strategic decisions to mitigate these threats in concert with ḥakisq̓nuk, ḥaq̓am, Yaqan nuʔkiy and yaq̓it ḥa-knuq̓iʔit. To date I have immersed myself into understanding and supporting the following efforts:

- International Joint Commission
- Lands and Resources Council
- Teck IMBA principle role
- Dispute Resolution processes
- Piikani

**Core Operations**

The Covid pandemic required us to adjust to a remote working environment over the past year. The IT team stepped up to the challenge of assisting KNC staff to working remotely in the beginning of the pandemic, and then in May 2022 assisted in the transition of the staff back to working in the office. With the growing demands of Information Technology (IT) in the workplace and our usage to increase connection with citizens far and wide, it is imperative that investment and effective management are in place to keep the work flowing. This year an audit was completed on the KNC Information Technology systems to help provided the information needed to ensure security, access and efficiencies. This work will also lend well to the current work on data sharing occurring in Core and TKL.

**COVID – 19 / Coronavirus Pandemic Status Update**

The Emergency Operations Committee (EOC) met regularly over the course of the emerging pandemic to review current COVID information and assess the health
and safety measures. COVID continues to remain an ongoing concern as part of our everyday lives and many adjustments have been made to support a safe and diligent working environment. This group meets on an as needed Basis. We continue to observe the guidance from health officials and the province on their status and receive up-to-date local information as it happens.

**Inter-Sector Director’s Committee (ISDC)**

Each month the Inter-Sector Director Committee (ISDC) or senior management team, made up of the CAO and Directors, meet monthly to share activities, collaborate and work together. In addition to the ISDC, I have begun meeting with each Director in a mid-month check in to provide dedicated time for detailed updates, support, to give direction when needed, and discuss HR issues. I enjoy these meetings as it also gives the CAO and each director time to build a strong working relationship. As we continue to evolve in our processes it is also our goal to discuss and consider consistent communication strategies.

Professional development and team building are important components of the ISDC. This year we organized two professional development sessions. The first session was a workshop that our employment lawyers facilitated called “Issues Managing the Workplace”. The workshop focused on the following areas:

- Managing Employees 101
- Progressive Discipline
- Just Cause for Dismissal
- Off-Duty Conduct
- Without Cause Terminations
- Minimizing Liability Arising from Dismissals
- Discrimination, Bullying and Harassment

The second workshop was a two day team building session that included Strength Deployment Inventory 2.0 (SDI 2.0). The SDI 2.0 reveals why you do what you do, and how you relate to others, with a goal of increasing efficiencies in the workplace. Additional training is being coordinated for KNC staff and Child and Family in September and November. This tool provides personal insight into professional behaviours, approach to conflict, and common language and will assist KNC to improve self-awareness, collaboration and accountability.

**Records Management – Aprio Board Software and Collabspace**

Records Management has been an ongoing issue at the KNC. Effective and efficient methods to organize, store and share data are being explored with cloud-based software. We are pleased to provide the following progress report on this initiative and anticipate seeing the new records management systems operating before the end of this fiscal.

In mid-2019, KNC subscribed to Collabspace a cloud-based electronic document and records management system to replace Contentverse (the system KNC was previously using). Collabspace features automated records storage for compliance, saves server/file space with automated duplicate file removal and archive inactive files, high powered search ability across multiple
platforms (KNC servers, MS Teams, email, ContractSafe for example), system scan of files and auto-transcription of videos & images making their content searchable for users.

KNC also has subscribed to Aprio Board Management software. Aprio is a cloud-based software through a Vancouver, BC based company that specializes in board meeting management to be used for all Sector Councils, Ktunaxa Nation Executive Council, and Ktunaxa Nation Council Society meetings.

The KNC administrators upload information and meeting materials that are securely stored in a central place. Leadership will be able to download and access any leadership meeting materials at any time.

**Looking Forward**

**2022/23 Budget Strategic Priorities**

In consultation with Leadership there were three key Budget priorities identified for this fiscal with the expectation that these priorities would be infused throughout the KNC organization.

**Ktunaxa Capacity Building**

- Refers to increasing the skills and abilities of Ktunaxa through education, training, onboarding and orientation of Citizens and Leadership.
- Each of the Sectors, Core and GNRV have allocated funds to support Ktunaxa capacity development.
- Providing for time, space and focus of Leadership to attend to affairs of the KNC through remuneration.

The Budget includes provision for 150 Staff at the KNC; of which, 77 are Ktunaxa; or 51.3%. This is an increase from 21% in 2018.

The Budget includes provision for professional consultants and contractors of 107; of which it is anticipated that 41 will be Ktunaxa; or 38.3%. This is an increase from 10% in 2018.

**Elevation of Traditional Language and Culture**

- Achieving ways and means of embedding Ktunaxa culture and language preservation in everything we do in all Sectors and Core Services
- Increasing focus on the TKL Sector as a means of integration, coordination and support to the Ktunaxa First Nations
- $ 450,000 allocation from GNRV to the TKL Sector
- Increasing consultation and engagement with Elders
- Provision for Space, Time and Focus for Leadership on Governance issues; including role and function of KNC and consultation with ʔakisʔnuk, ʔaʔaqam, Yaqan nūʔkiy and yaʔit ʔaʔkn̓uʔq̓iʔit

**Significant Initiatives by Sector**

We conclude the KNC Core AGA report with a glimpse at the significant initiatives that the sectors have committed to in their 2022/23 work plans. The sectors were asked to consider how their work plan goals improve citizen services and alignment with ʔakisʔnuk,
ʔaq̓am, Yaqan Nuʔkiy, and Yaq̓it ʔa-knuq̓l̓iʔit priorities and interests. I look forward to seeing this work completed and advancing our vision:

K̓zmakqa ksuk̓uʔa·k kukqani ʔiʔtkąʔit haqa ksiʔiʔ ʔxaʔaʔak̓luq̓aʔa·k k̓iʔin Ktunaxa naʔis ʔamakʔis. Qus piʔakaʔe nəʔis ʔexal yaq̓aʔanakaʔit haqaʔki. ʔItqawixʷmu kakiʔitwiiʔit ʔamakʔis k̓isn̓iʔe̓k k̓eʔxaʔal qa k̓iʔk̓aʔuxum-a·k̓itqakha ʔaq̓aʔis k̓is. Qus piʔakaʔe naʔis ʔexal yaq̓aʔanakaʔit haqaʔki.

Strong, healthy citizens and communities, speaking our languages and celebrating who we are and our history in our ancestral homelands, working together, managing our lands and resources, within a self-sufficient, self-governing Nation.

Social
- Ktunaxa Shelter – affordable housing for Ktunaxa; in collaboration with BC Housing
  o Target date for opening fall of 2022
- Ktunaxa Health Centre – accessible and timely care for Ktunaxa; in collaboration with Interior Health
  o Target date for opening late fall of 2022
- Supporting the development of 7 Nations Soaring Eagles Treatment Centre in Yaqan Nuʔkiy
- Mental Health Outreach Team

Lands
- Increasing focus and Ktunaxa capacity on Lands Stewardship
- Strengthening Title & Rights to Lands & Relationships with Neighbouring Nations
- Monitoring and compliance efforts in conjunction with ʔakisq̓unbbox̓, ʔaq̓am, Yaqan Nuʔkiy, and Yaq̓it ʔa-knuq̓l̓iʔit Lands departments
- Review of Land Declaration of 1982

Economic
- Connectivity – subsidized Internet to Citizens; and ʔakisq̓unbbox̓ Fibre-to-the-Home project
- Supporting business development opportunities with ʔakisq̓unbbox̓, ʔaq̓am, Yaqan Nuʔkiy, and Yaq̓it ʔa-knuq̓l̓iʔit
- Ktunaxa based business certification
- Economic Assessments of Resource Based Agreements
- Financial Literacy for Ktunaxa citizens

Employment and Education
- Increasing Land-based education and Ktunaxa capacity building opportunities
- Co-developing a Workforce Development Strategy with Economic Sector that must include priorities and interests of ʔakisq̓unbbox̓, ʔaq̓am, Yaqan Nuʔkiy, and Yaq̓it ʔa-knuq̓l̓iʔit
- Initiating a Ktunaxa school feasibility study

TKL
- Language preservation
- Collaboration and synergies with ʔakisq̓unbbox̓, ʔaq̓am, Yaqan Nuʔkiy, and Yaq̓it ʔa-knuq̓l̓iʔit programs and services
- Language apprenticeships and Language curriculum development and delivery
- Resource library and sharing
- Cultural activities, gatherings, and knowledge transfer

Thanks to all of my fellow Ktunaxa ʔaq̓̓smaknik for joining us for the 2022 AGA. I would like to take this time to express my gratitude to the citizens, leadership and staff.
Social Investment Sector

Message from the Sector Chair – Cory Letcher

Kiʔsuʔk Kyukyt. Hu qaktik Cory. Another year has passed and not an average year by any means with a pandemic that has altered all of our lives. I will take this time to recognize Debbie and the staff of the Social Investment Sector for their ongoing frontline efforts to care for our Citizens, and other aboriginal peoples withinʔamakʔis Ktunaxa. The Social Sector is governed by elected leaders of the 4 Ktunaxa Governments. The Sector Council is currently:

ʔaq̓am Government
Councillor Sancira Williams Jimmy
ʔakisqʷuḵ Government
Councillor Rosemary Phillips
Yaqq̓an Nuʔkiy Government
Nasuʔkin Jason Louie
Yaʔit ?aʔknuqɬiʔit Government
Councillor Cory Letcher
Social Investment Sector Director’s Message,
Debbie Whitehead

Kiʔsuʔk Kyukyit. I want to acknowledge all of the Social Sector staff for their strong leadership throughout the pandemic and for providing ongoing direct care and supports to our Citizens and other aboriginal people living in the territory. As always, a thank you to the Social Investment Sector Council for the ongoing support they provide at a political level. Thank you all.

Despite the pandemic, the Social Investment Sector has made some considerable achievements including the roll out of the Ktunaxa Practice Framework, internally and externally with partners. The Primary Care Network (PCN) project is in its 4th year. The PCN brings various services providers together through a structure that is designed to improve the continuum of care, or the coordination of care, for BC Citizens; our PCN work is with Ktunaxa and Aboriginal patients/ clients inʔamakʔis Ktunaxa.

Over the last year, we have had some challenges in filling positions in our hospital and clinics often due to those applying, not being vaccinated. We have downsized programming over the last year due to burn out and funding levels but on a positive note, the Ktunaxa Governments have been able to hire qualified staff to support their community needs. This is exciting for all, as the approach to federal health and wellness service devolution is Community-driven and Nation-based.

Covid-19 Impacts

- Adaptation of essential services to ensure the safety and wellbeing of communities, clients and staff (outreach, distancing, protective equipment)
- No face-to-face meetings or travel
- Utilizing web-based tools to collaborate and communicate
- Telephone and virtual health clinics
- Non-essential staff working from home office sites
- Supporting and Collaborating with Communities regarding wildfires and flooding
- Emergency Management Mentorship in Community

Practice Framework — Social Investment Sector

The Social Investment Sector Practice Framework developed through intensive engagement with many Ktunaxa representatives guides Social Investment Sector programming. The Framework has continued to be an effective resource in shaping health and wellness, building and strengthening relationships, and incorporating Ktunaxa values and viewpoints into every aspect of the Social Investment Sector and its working endeavors. Cultural safety and humility has been the priority and focus of the implementation, allowing integration of healthy Ktunaxa perspectives into the networks of our health partners, staff, schools, and community support systems with the intent of a higher quality of service provided withinʔamakʔis Ktunaxa.

The development of a Ktunaxa Practice Framework video was completed and incorporated into implementation reinforcing the effectiveness of the Social Investment Sector Practice Framework.

Social Investment Sector and Nation Shared Services

The Social Investment Sector is committed to self-determination; to deliver unique, specialized Nation shared services and to support each of the Ktunaxa Governments’ to reclaim the delivery of community specific services. Through the collaborative conversations with FNHA, the Social Investment Sector is playing a lead role to facilitate relationship building and to begin community-driven processes of determining how best to achieve direct resource allocation from the province, federal government or FNHA.

The Nation Shared service resources, are dedicated resources to serve all Indigenous people withinʔamakʔis Ktunaxa, and specialized services not offered on-reserve. These services offer essential health care to all Indigenous people, on or off reserve, including Metis, Inuit, status, and non-status. Nation shared services include: Psychiatry Outreach, Nurse Practitioner,
Psychiatric Nurse, Mental Health Clinician, Aboriginal Care Navigators, Aboriginal Patient Navigator, Registered Nursing, and administrative support.

Elders Advisory Working Group Committee Engagement

Several programs and services were developed through extensive consultation with the Elders Advisory Committee. Most noteworthy are:

- Seven Nations Soaring Eagle Healing Centre Curriculum and Resources
- Practice Framework

Primary Care Networks

As noted in the Director’s message, the Primary Care Network is a partnership of health service providers that works through a collaborative approach to enhance access and utilization of primary care resources provincially, including within the East Kootenay. The partners to the East Kootenay PCNs include the EK Division of Family Practice, Interior Health, and the Ktunaxa Nation. The EK Primary Care Network developed a service plan in 2019 that dedicates resources to the Nation Shared Services to support all Indigenous people’s access to Primary Health care in the EK. Currently the EK PCN is in its third year of implementation and the Indigenous Nation Shared Services are becoming operational. The intended outcomes include:

- patient attachment to primary care providers (doctor, nurse practitioner),
- patient access to primary health care,
- team based case providing wrap around support, and
- culturally safe care

Working together through the PCNs are:

- Family Physicians
- Nurse Practitioners
- Nurses, Mental Wellness Clinicians, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Respiratory Therapists, Registered Dietitians, and a Clinical Pharmacist
- Aboriginal Health Coordinators and funding to support the engagement of Elders and other community champions to support all Aboriginal patients
- Learning and change support resources

The Social Investment Sector received resources to support shared services: Aboriginal Care Navigators, a Nurse Practitioner, Primary Care Nurse, and Cultural Safety Educator. Interior Health is the primary operational partner who is responsible for rolling out most of the PCN resources including occupational therapists, social workers, nurses, dietician, mental health clinicians, nurse practitioners, etc.

In addition to participating in the East Kootenay Primary Care Network, the Ktunaxa Nation participates in the governance of the Kootenay Boundary Primary Care Network.
Network and the planning for the Revelstoke Primary Care Network. In Kootenay Boundary this in partnership with the Syilx Nation. In Revelstoke, this is in partnership with the Syilx and Secwepemc Nations.

**Ktunaxa Nation Health Clinic**

This year the KNC health clinic was very busy with the nurse practitioners (NP) having over 4500 patient encounters. The previous year the NP’s had 3600 patient encounters. The clinic priority continues to be Ktunaxa Nation Citizens as well as anyone who identifies as Indigenous with mental health and substance use issues, requiring Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT), other addictions, women at risk, and other vulnerable populations.

A highlight this year was launching our Mental Health Outreach services run by a Registered Psychiatric Nurse and a Mental Health clinician. We have recently purchased a medical van equipped with a patient bed and harm reduction supplies. This van will help meet Ktunaxa clients needs (and any Indigenous people) where they are at and provide mobile health services to those who are under served and without permanent housing. Some of these services include ensuring basic needs are met, injections, wound care, sexual health and providing immunizations to high-risk individuals who have challenges accessing the clinic.

Another area to highlight is our cervical cancer screening campaign run by the Ktunaxa community/public health nurses. First Nations women in BC are 92 per cent more likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer than non-First Nations women, and survival rates are generally lower. This campaign has started February 2022. So far, eligible Ktunaxa Nation members living in Cranbrook, ?aʔamnik andʔakisʔnuk have been contacted about cervical cancer screening and offered an appointment in their community. Yaqan Nuʔkiy and Yaq̓itʔaʔknuʔit communities will be soon to follow.

A final area to highlight is our new “take what you need” harm reduction caddies that have been placed in the waiting room and offices at the Health clinic. Patients are freely able to help themselves to harm reduction supplies without judgement and take what they need home with them. Examples of supplies offered are naloxone kits, safe substance use supplies and sexual health supplies.

Along with these services, the KNC community/public Health Nurses continue to provide public health nursing services at the clinic and in community. This includes all routine vaccines and yearly flu vaccine, COVID-19 vaccine, prenatal and postnatal care, child health clinics, sexual health services, school health screening (vision, hearing, dental), tuberculosis (TB) screening and communicable disease control.

This past year influenza vaccines were offered to each student in both Yaqan Nuʔkiy andʔaʔamnik elementary schools. Influenza was offered along with routine school aged immunizations. This is a new program and Interior Health does not offer it at public schools so Ktunaxa nurses are paving the way (once again). This program had great uptake and we plan to offer it again this flu season.

**Services Offered in the Ktunaxa Nation Clinic:**

- Medical Office Assistant
- Mental Health Clinician
- Public Health Nurse
- Nurse Practitioners
- Psych Nurse
- Aboriginal Care Navigator
- Aboriginal Care Liaison
- Outreach Psychiatry - By referral from a Doctor or Nurse Practitioner

**Mental Health Outreach to Communities**

KNC staff continue to support community members with mental health supports and work with IHA and FNHA to continue to have access to professionals in a culturally safe setting.

The Ktunaxa Social Investment Sector employs one full-time equivalent Mental Health Clinician under Nation shared services. This person provides holistic trauma informed mental health clinical counselling services. This position started in spring in 2021 and provides
outreach to individuals within the Ktunaxa First Nations and within the urban setting.

**Outreach Psychiatric Nursing (OPN)/Nurse Prescriber**

This year the focus was on mental health advocacy and the toxic drug supply within this role. There are a number of marginalized Ktunaxa Citizens living a high-risk lifestyle on the streets of Cranbrook. The role advocates for necessary hospital admissions and treatment, administer medications in the community and other agencies, and send people to treatment centers. Sometimes this role provides basic safety such as providing food, tents, and harm reduction supplies and they liaise with the hospital, forensics and RCMP, provincial jail systems, counselling, KKCFSS and other agencies to ensure safe, accessible care for our clients’ mental health and addiction challenges.

This is the first nursing position within FNHA to prescribe OAT, which includes Suboxone, Methadone, and Kadian – all to treat opioid use disorder - this initiative resulted from the overdose crisis, and BC is the only province that has extended the nursing scope of practice to include prescription capacity in this area.

We continue to lose community members to the opioid crisis; however, we have seen an increase in connection and engagement with KNC programs. KNC Nursing staff are working on the outreach van, which includes OAT prescribing, drug testing, harm reduction, sexual health and STI testing, and provide basic nursing care. The OPN has also have been providing higher-level mental health and addictions consultation support for the Health Centers and nurses in the communities.

**State of Emergency**

In October 2021 - The governments of the Ktunaxa Nation: Yaq̓itʔa·knuq̓i·it,ʔakisʔnuk, Yaqan Nuʔkiy andʔaq̓aʔam have declared a State of Emergency regarding the Mental Health crisis withinʔamakʔis Ktunaxa. We continue to be in a State of Emergency and are working ongoing with the Ministry of Mental Health and Substance Use, BC Housing, Interior Health Authority, Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family and First Nations Health Authority to address the mental health crisis withinʔamakʔis Ktunaxa. Some of the key priorities achieved since the State of Emergency was called, were as follows. We developed an outreach mental health team; secured culturally safe access to psychiatry; developed Emergency Department Care Plans; developed a collaborative RCMP response for Mental Health related calls; became the first nursing site through FNHA to prescribe OAT, secured funding to open an emergency shelter (fall 2022) that can be accessed by those struggling with mental health and/or substance use.

**Community Wellness Champions**

During the pandemic, we saw a significant increase in overdoses and mental health needs. The Wellness
Champions worked to support people in accessing medications/appointments, ensuring they had training and access to naloxone kits, supported with food security, wellness check-ins and linked individuals to appropriate outreach/mental health supports. As well, individuals, families and communities were provided counselling supports, check-ins and trainings around suicide prevention and intervention.

He has experience working with Foundry, as well as Indigenous communities in Williams Lake and Bella Bella. His services are virtual, and as such, can be accessed by members from ᓄʔakisʔq̓nuk, ᓄʔaʔq̓am, Yaqan nuʔkiy and yaʔq̓it ᓄʔa-knuq̓liʔ it who require psychiatric services and are not already connected to a psychiatrist. A Doctor or Nurse Practitioner referral is required.

Emergency Shelter

As many know, during the pandemic we made the difficult decision to close down detox and recovery. Interior Health is working on opening these programs up with different service providers. The main reason for this decision is that our most vulnerable Ktunaxa Individuals were falling through the gaps of our own programs because they did not meet the program mandates/requirements. A number of our vulnerable Ktunaxa individuals are homeless and permanently banned from the current homeless shelter. As a result, our focus has shifted to open an emergency shelter for Ktunaxa/Indigenous/Metis individuals to access. The shelter will have nursing staff to support with medications, assessments, and monitoring overall health and well-being. This program will be low-barrier and flexible to best meet individuals where they are at. The shelter is tentatively scheduled to open Fall 2022.

Ministry of Aboriginal Relation and Reconciliation - Demonstration Project

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to describe the shared interests of the Ktunaxa Nation and participating provincial Ministries in establishing a Social Investment Sector partnership to demonstrate the Ktunaxa Nation Practice Framework (see Appendix A) and to advance key activities that strengthen existing service delivery structures and contribute to a continued process of governance transition for the Ktunaxa Nation.

Objectives

The demonstration site supports the partners to explore a more collaborative and coordinated approach to service planning, partnership and investment in a way that strengthens the integration of health and social
services at the local level and aligns with and advances the Ktunaxa Nation vision:

*Strong, healthy citizens and communities, speaking their languages and celebrating who they are and their history in their ancestral homelands, working together, managing their lands and resources, within a self-sufficient, self-governing Ktunaxa Nation.*

From this basis, the partners aim to achieve the following objectives:

- Demonstrating aspects of the *Ktunaxa Nation Practice Framework* and Social Investment Service Delivery Model while acknowledging that this work will exceed the two-year timeframe of the MOU and that this work is linked to a larger discussion relating to the recognition of the Ktunaxa G as a self-government;

- Exploring a new and more flexible funding approach that allows the Ktunaxa Nation and, in time, the Ktunaxa Government to plan, design and deliver a continuum of care consistent with the interests described in the MOU;

- Setting a foundation for informed discussion between the partners to understand the process and actions required to recognize the authority of the Ktunaxa Nation in relation to provincial services;

- Setting a foundation for informed discussion between the partners to explore mechanisms that enable data sharing among the partners;

- Responding to and finding solutions for emergent issues that inhibit greater integration in the design, planning and delivery of services at the local level; and

- Exploring an integrated Social Investment Sector partnership table or process that enables regular engagement among the partners on health, mental health and substance use services and interests related to the social determinants of health.

### Housing Relationship – Aboriginal Urban Housing Project

**Purpose**

The KNC is building a relationship with BC Housing, providing another opportunity to model how the BC government can work with the Governments of the Ktunaxa Nation and together, show how we can change the outcomes of our most vulnerable Citizens and other Aboriginal people residing within ʔamak̓is Ktunaxa. The Social Investment Sector is working with BC Housing to develop and implement additional URBAN supportive housing. Currently Scotty’s House is the home of Ktunaxa recovery and detox programs and is unable to meet the permanent urban housing needs of the Nation’s most vulnerable.

**Objectives**

To work in partnership to open an emergency shelter for Ktunaxa and other aboriginal people. To inform the provincial government project related to data collection and homelessness. Also to sign a Letter of Understanding with the provincial government and agencies related to complex care needs and housing; the first draft has been developed and is now with BC Housing.
Many of you know Gwen Phillips, who is from Yaq̓it ?a·knuqʔit but who lives in ?aʔq̓am. Gwen has worked for the Ktunaxa Nation for almost 40 years, first going to work with the Kootenay Indian Area Council, after working as a summer student in Tobacco Plains. Gwen was the Ktunaxa Nation Director of Health at one point along her journey, and the Governments of the Ktunaxa Nation in 2010 asked her to keep an eye on the provincial and national landscapes, appointing her as a member of the original First Nations Health Council’s Governance Committee. Selected by the Interior Nations to be part of the team that negotiated the transfer of the federal health services to the First Nations Health Authority, Gwen served on the Health Council – the provincial health advocacy group – for over 10 years. During this time, Gwen has been identifying where Ktunaxa health and wellness-related interests might be impacted negatively by the actions of other governments or First Nations organizations and has been identifying opportunities for the Governments of the Ktunaxa Nation to advance their interests. She brings these issues to the attention of the Social Investment Sector or the full Ktunaxa Nation Council, depending on the nature of the issue.

Gwen is also known as the BC First Nations Data Governance Initiative Champion and has been for the past seven or so years, working between the federal and provincial governments and with First Nations from across the country, in a collective assertion of each Nations’ data rights. One reason why this is important, is the current lack of recognition of Ktunaxa Government employed Health professionals, within the public healthcare data environment.

The doctors and nurses employed by the Ktunaxa Governments, for example, doctors serving one of the Ktunaxa First Nations are not able to use the provincial PUBLIC health records information system that the other doctors and nurses working for Interior Health (IH) use. This creates a likelihood of incomplete or inconsistent care, repeat tests, and lack of recognition of existing conditions. The Ktunaxa Governments are working to gain access to the health information systems for the professionals working for them, and to gain recognition as governments within the BC landscape.

The Governments of the Ktunaxa Nation have consistently asserted that they want recognition as governments - as Ktunaxa Governments. This has been the focus of the work that Gwen has been leading related to Data Sovereignty and Data Governance, locally, regionally and nationally. Through the work that she has been involved in provincially and nationally, there will soon be resources put in place in BC to assist the Rights and Title Holders of BC, including the Ktunaxa Governments, in advancing their data interests. This work is being done within the frame of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UND RIP) which recognizes Indigenous rights; the Ktunaxa-speaking Peoples, as a distinct society, will take ownership and control of Ktunaxa Intellectual Property, Identity and Data by making the UNDRIP rights, Ktunaxa Rights.
There is now law in place federally and provincially that acknowledges Indigenous Peoples’ rights as articulated in the UNDRIP; the Ktunaxa Peoples need to stand ourselves up as a distinct society and claim those rights and take the time to interpret them from the Ktunaxa worldview. Indigenous Rights are collective rights, held by the governments of each distinct Nation-group, on behalf of their distinct Peoples; the provincial or federal governments cannot interpret them. Only the Ktunaxa Peoples can determine what these rights mean to them.

See videos related to Data Sovereignty here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ojbnGrE7-A
https://vimeo.com/528334437/f6bf0ee261

The work that Gwen does continues to further the Social Investment Sector’s mandate at the provincial and federal levels, which ultimately supports much of the work that we do on the ground. Over the years of health transformation, Gwen’s support and work has been invaluable to the Sector’s commitment to the continuum of care. The Ktunaxa Emergency Management position resulted from interventions in provincial level work by Gwen and her colleagues on the Interior Region Nations Executive (IRNE) and a redirect of resources and relationship to the local level.

**Ktunaxa Emergency Management Program and Activities**

The past year was an active one for the Ktunaxa Emergency Management Program.

Travis and Chris continued in their role as emergency management advisors through 2021. This was the first year that Chris was involved in the emergency management advisory support project. Travis continued in his role of project manager and coordinator for emergency management advisory services.

Work continues on a number of fronts including emergency plan development, support for grant applications and project support, capacity development and attending various nation-to-nation and government to government emergency management forums, tables, committees, and other collaborative events on behalf of the KNC.

**Accomplishments**

In 2021/2022, the KNC emergency management program was able to support Ktunaxa First Nations undertake some significant emergency management projects. Support for Yaqit ?a-knuqli’it over the course of the last two years, there has been significant time and effort invested in developing local emergency management and response capabilities.

Work has continued on the development of emergency management plans for the community, with initial planning taking place with the Yaqit ?a-knuqli’it Housing Manager, Chelsea Gray, and later with the new Manager of Fire and Emergency Services, Brett Uphill. This work continues and plans will be shared, reviewed and hopefully implemented with the organization in 2022.

KNC Emergency Management Advisors worked very closely with Yaqit ?a-knuqli’it over the past year to develop more fire and emergency response locally. Efforts by both KNC Emergency Advisor Travis Abbey and Yaqit ?a-knuqli’it staff (mainly Chelsea Gray) led to the development of a local emergency response organization (essentially, a fire department). This new fire department will be
composed of both Grasmere residents and Yaq̓itʔa-κnuq’i’t indigenous members, and intends to provide response capacity to indigenous and non-indigenous communities in the area. This department is in its development stages. In order to develop this capacity, Yaq̓itʔa-κnuq’i’t was able to hire Brett Uphill, an experienced City of Fernie fire officer to lead this development. KNC Emergency Management Advisors continue to support Brett in his new role and in his plan for the development of a first responder group in the area.

Over the last year, KNC Emergency Management Advisors have also supported responses to house fires and to "Freedom Convoy" highway border closures. KNC Emergency Management Advisors offered support and connection to BC Government services in support of these incidents. KNC Emergency Management Advisors continue to monitor for regional, transportation and community impacts from floods, wildfires, and other hazards, and share this information with Yaq̓itʔa-κnuq’i’t staff.

ʔakis̱nuq, with the support of KNC emergency management advisors, was able to apply for and receive a $150,000 grant to undertake a flood hazard study that, when complete, will show the risk to the Nation from creeks, streams and Windermere Lake. This important work will help guide future flood mitigation work and land development decisions on the ʔakis̱nuq reserve lands.

ʔakis̱nuq was also able to access a Columbia Basin Trust grant of approximately $130,000 (with some ʔakis̱nuq funding as well) to upgrade their recreation facility to an emergency support centre. Improvements will see building engineering improvements, back-up power, and emergency supplies purchased to support the community (and other communities) in times of crisis. The centre may be used for evacuee support, emergency lodging, emergency operations staffing and staging for emergency response equipment.

KNC emergency management advisors would love to see these opportunities pursued by other Ktunaxa communities. KNC Emergency Management advisors also monitor conditions and provide input and advice for Ktunaxa communities during flood and fire seasons. Significant effort has been applied to monitoring for unsafe conditions during the 2021 wildfire season and the 2022 spring freshet.

**Highlights**

The KNC emergency management advisors (Chris and Travis) continued significant development of emergency management plans on behalf of Ktunaxa communities. Significant progress on the ʔaq̓a’am, ʔakis̱nuq and Yaq̓itʔa-κnuq’i’t plans was made this year. Plan versions include an emergency management plan, an emergency operations plan, and collecting other supporting plans (like flood and wildfire plans) in a central location for easy reference. It is hoped that the ʔakis̱nuq plans can be finalized this year, with ʔaq̓a’am and Yaq̓itʔa-κnuq’i’t plans to follow shortly (dependent on community staff availability for review).
Struggles

There have been some challenges in the program, but the Emergency Management program believes that these challenges can be overcome with time, planning, funding, and relationship building.

Both ḡaʔam and ḡakisʔnuk have been active participants with the KNC emergency program advisors, but have been struggling with staff changes, unfilled staff vacancies, and generally speaking, too few community resources to truly build local emergency management capacity. The KNC emergency program advisors have tried to support these communities as best possible, but more internal capacity is needed. There is much discussion at Nation, provincial and federal government levels as these issues are experienced in almost every First Nation across BC.

EM Next Steps

KNC emergency management advisors will continue to work on the projects noted above. In addition to these activities, KNC emergency management advisors provide support to the KNC by:

- Attending the Technical Emergency Management Working Group meetings and events;
- Attending the new FNHA / IHA Emergency Management Table;
- Providing KNC representation for the Emergency Management BC Emergency Program Act revitalization (and work on other regulations and policies);
- Supporting the KNC on Canada / BC / KNC emergency management tripartite agreement working group efforts;

KNC Emergency Management Advisors hope to continue to work with Ktunaxa First Nations to undertake updated Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analyses for Ktunaxa First Nations, and to continue to develop indigenous capacity and expertise in emergency management. KNC advisors are also talking with the Ktunaxa First Nations about how we can increase personal preparedness and community resiliency.

Social Investment Sector Community and Nation Health and Wellness Plan Engagement

The 2018-2022 Health Plan is an accumulation of information received during community engagement sessions throughout 2018 and into 2019. Social Investment Sector managers and staff, accompanied by Interior Health Authority leadership and management, visited each Ktunaxa First Nation and listened to their health and wellness concerns and best hopes. As a result, ḡakisʔnuk, ḡaʔam, Yaqan nuʔkiy and yaʔit ḡ-a-knuq’li’it developed their own health plan, which were rolled-up into the Ktunaxa Nation Health, and Wellness Plan, which was then rolled into the Interior Region Aboriginal Health and Wellness Plan as part of the FNHA/IH collaborative work. This plan will be updated this fiscal year in partnership with the Ktunaxa communities, Governments, and with the advice of staff and clients.
The Social Investment Sector plans complement and integrate the work done by the various Ktunaxa Governments by:

1. Negotiating and securing funding from FNHA and other Government sectors.
2. Facilitating community champions/mentor services toʔakisʔsnuk, ʔaq̓am, Yaqan nuʔkïy and yaʔit ʔa·knuqⱡiʾit.
3. Collaborating withʔakisʔsnuk, ʔaq̓am, Yaqan nuʔkïy and yaʔit ʔa·knuqⱡiʾit to identify appropriate services/supports and bringing the community voice to regional tables – FNHA, IHA.

The Social Investment Sector Plan and its outcomes benefit Ktunaxa Citizens by linking community programs and services from the community health plans to the Primary Care Network planning and planning with other service providers.

DEVELOPMENTAL WORK UNDERWAY - Seven Nations Wellness Center

In partnership with FNHA, the Ktunaxa Nation Social Investment Sector was tasked with creating a new transformative approach to healing and overcoming addictions with the site location to be a new build in Yaqan nuʔkïy with infrastructure support and program development from FNHA.

The project is getting closer to completion with lots of work that has been done and a lot still left to do. The Wellness Centre will offer a culturally rooted, strength-based and trauma informed approach to healing and wellness. The 8-week program is a transformation ceremony. Healing is holistic and is being approached by revitalizing culture, reclaiming identity and wisdom, reconciling families, communities, and nations, and re-establishing wholeness. It provides participants with the opportunity to reclaim their lives from the impacts of colonization (including so-called “addiction”, violence, and other dependencies), so they can live in wellness.

This post-colonial perspective is guided by a holistic and culturally rooted approach to healing work that has been called for by Indigenous people in BC for many years. A radical shift away from the dominant western bio-medical and 12-Step models, it is in alignment with a trauma informed and strength-based approaches currently recommended. Based on Indigenous worldviews, programming will engage the participants in their:

• development of greater connection
• the reclamation of their empowerment
• the pursuit of a purposeful life, and
• walk a path guided by cultural and spiritual wisdom.

The program is a ceremonial process with the activities serving as strands that weave together traditional and contemporary teachings to complete a cultural braid. Soaring Eagles is an initiation into a life of wellness that offers the opportunity for individual transformation. It will support participants to “walk the Elder’s path” and, in that process, to become agents of culturally rooted wellness and decolonization in their family and community.

Development Process Overview

COMPLETE

Phase 1: Engagement and Promising Practices Research


Activities:
a) Literature Review.

Promising Practices and Literature review informs the program development based on current program models in youth wellness and healing centers.

b) Interviews & Engagement.

Includes subject matter experts (psychologists, psychiatrists), Elders, Knowledge Holders, community Leadership.

c) Wisdom Sharing Site Visits.

Key members of the planning team visit other programs to take key lessons learned and support capacity development and knowledge transfer.

d) Focus Groups.

Focus groups with the various voices and contributors of Ktunaxa wisdom and knowledge.

e) Legislation and Policy Guide.

Policy and Legislation workbook/guide is developed to inform program development for necessary licensing, accreditation, registration, legislation, and policy requirements.

**COMPLETE & FINAL STAGES**

**Phase 2: Program Development - Complete in copy edit process**


**Activities:**

a) Program Framework:

The wisdom from Phase one informs a broad program framework that serves as the template for the curriculum.

b) Program Curriculum:

Program activities developed to align and achieve the program framework, principles, practices, and vision. The program calendar informs the number of curriculum activities and program flow. (i.e. if there are 5 activities per day, the curriculum would have 5 activities written out, explicitly guiding staff on program delivery).

c) Facilitation Manual:

The facilitation manual ensures practices developed from the program visioning are brought to life through the facilitation of activities. It serves as a guidebook for staff on facilitation of this unique cultural program and activities.

d) Program Policies and Protocols:

The program policies must align with the program vision, practices, principles, and curriculum. Policies that are culturally rooted and address challenges and opportunities through cultural protocol.

e) Intake Process:
The intake package, admission criteria, assessment, exclusion criteria, and intake model are made explicit and ready to be operational. (i.e. age, number, any exclusions, rotating or fixed intake).

f) Staffing Model:

The program model, demographic, activities, licensing, and resources determine the staffing model and is made explicit. Job descriptions, roles, responsibilities are defined.

**IN PROGRESS**

**Phase 3: Infrastructure**

*Outcomes:* Facility Assessment and Review and Infrastructure Enhancement Plan.

*Activities:*

a) Facility Assessment.
   Construction and Building inspectors conduct a facility and infrastructure assessment and identify areas of upgrades and alignment with current existing codes and licensing requirements.

b) Infrastructure Enhancement.
   Program and Infrastructure/Facilities Alignment:
   The program development provides infrastructure needs for the facilities/site to meet program needs. (i.e. enhancements.) Ceremonial facilities, ventilation for ceremony, etc.)

**IN PROGRESS**

**Phase 4: Operations & Project Management**

*Outcomes:* Implementation and Operations Workplan and operationalizing activities.

*Activities:*

a) Licensing Body Submissions.

b) Accreditation Submissions.

c) Governance Implementation (i.e., non-profit society creation).

d) Staff Recruitment/Staff Training.

*Looking forward, the Social Investment Sector goals are:*

1. To establish a Government-to-Government relationship that provides flexible, sufficient and sustainable block funding for Community-driven, Nation-based services;

2. Provide leadership to an integrated team of professionals to support staff providing a high standard of service;

3. Increased capacity within the Governments of the Ktunaxa Nation independently and collectively, to develop institutional strength and guide the transformation of services, including those of the First Nations Health Authority, provincial and federal governments;

4. Provide Urban and Community Services through the Social Determinants of Health Model, guided by the Ktunaxa Practice Framework.
In order to achieve the vision of Strong, healthy Citizens and communities... and in particular the Social Investment Sector strategic outcomes, the Social Investment Sector Council and staff will continue to consult with the Governments of the Ktunaxa Nation, the Citizens, the communities and others, to ensure that Ktunaxa needs and best hopes are incorporated through collaboration, communication and planning.
Traditional Knowledge & Language

Message from the Sector Chair – Julie Birdstone

Kiʔsuk kyukʔkyít qapi niskíł,

I would like to acknowledge and thank Nasuʔkin Don Sam for his years with the TKL Sector as Senior Manager, we will miss you and welcome new Senior Manager Vickie Thomas. Our language is important, we look forward to all the wonderful things you will bring to life for the sector in terms of language revitalization and cultural preservation. I also want to take the opportunity to thank Codie Morigeau and Smokii Sumac for their contributions over the past couple of years keeping TKL working toward our goals during this pandemic.

Thank you to the Sector Council for the guidance you provide as the Sector Council; Nasuʔkin Jason Louie who serves on the Sector Council for Lower Kootenay, Council Member Kyle Shottanana for Yaʔgit ḥaʔknuqí’it and welcome Darcy Fisher for ḥaʔknuqí’it.

I would also like to acknowledge the TKL Elders Advisory working groups and the TKL team for the hard work with all the Sectors to ensure that KNC services are delivered in Ktunaxa-appropriate and decolonized way, we look forward to this next year and the innovation and dedication you bring to your work.

Traditional Knowledge & Language Sector Director Message, written by Codie Morigeau

I would like to start out by thanking the Sector Council for being courageous in their leadership for their willingness and openness to share what they know and support to the most important work we can do as Ktunaxa people.

The Sector Council:

- Julie Birdstone, ḥaʔqam, Sector Council Chair
- Nasuʔkin Ryan Nicholas/Darcy Fisher, ḥaʔknuqí’uk
- Nasuʔkin Jason Louie, Yaʔqan nuʔkiy
- Kyle Shottanana, yaʔgit ḥaʔknuqí’it

The TKL Sector experienced much change over the past year with three different Directors. I served as the TKL Director as a part of the Director reassignment from September 2020 to August 2021. I would like to thank both Smokii Sumac and Don Sam for their contributions and dedication to the TKL Sector and welcome Vickie Thomas as the new Director for TKL. I would like to acknowledge Team TKL for all of their contributions, dedication and hard work over the past year. Thank you for all that you do!

Staff included:

- Don Sam, Director
- Smokii Sumac, Integration Specialist and Acting Director
Part of what we have been taught is knowledge is not ours to keep, but rather, our responsibility to share. In aligning with this principle, collaboration with ḥakisḵnuk, ṭaq̓am, Yaqan nux̱kiy and yaq̓it ḥa·knuq̓li’it is essential. Collaboration is an opportunity to share and learn from each other and to explore with utmost curiosity the various ways that KNC TKL can support and compliment the efforts of the Ktunaxa First Nations.

The phrase “Community Driven, Nation Based” used by the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) was top of mind for grassroots alignment. Through ongoing conversations with ḥakisḵnuk, ṭaq̓am, Yaqan nux̱kiy and yaq̓it ḥa·knuq̓li’it many great ideas were generated on how we might work together both directly in each First Nation and as a Nation.

I am happy to report that a number of collaborative initiatives were supported this past year based on these strategic discussions. Funding was offered to ḥakisḵnuk, ṭaq̓am, Yaqan nux̱kiy and yaq̓it ḥa·knuq̓li’it to support positions that concentrated on language, culture and mentorship. In ṭaq̓am, the TKL Director was invited to attend their Language and Knowledge Holders Meetings to increase communication, inclusion and opportunities for collaboration.

Co-hosting a recent workshop dedicated to the revitalization of the art of Ktunaxa game processing for self-sufficiency. Here are some photos from August 2022 in ḥakisḵnuk First Nation in their Columbia Lake Recreation Centre. Pictured are Alfred Joseph, and Lucille Shovar and Dion Burgoyne flipping the wackina.

I look forward to seeing how Vickie and the TKL team are able to take these seeds of collaboration and to continue to weave and advance our shared interests in language and culture preservation and revitalization.
Strategic Planning

It is vital for the TKL Sector to spend time and due diligence on the strategic planning processes to ensure we are working on Ktunaxa priorities and aligned to meet progress milestones. The strategic planning process began in 2020 and was finalized in December 2021. What was clear articulated in the process was the importance of TKL connecting to everything:

The Strategic Planning Process

In June 2020, the strategic planning process began with a session facilitated by Marie Delorme in Yaqan nuʔkiy that included Leadership, Elders and staff at the Round House. In September 2020, the draft report was presented to the TKL Sector Council for review and discussion. After review, it was determined that additional Strategic Planning Sessions needed to be scheduled. In October and November 2020, the Sector Council delved deeper into the development of the strategic plan by holding two additional sessions: one with the Sector Council and a second with the TKLAC. In addition to the TKL overarching strategic plan, the Sector Council came together on May 12, 2021 to develop a Sector Council specific strategic plan.

The Sector Council arrived at their strategic plan. The plan was simple, beautiful, and inspirational as it concentrates on ceremonies: practicing ceremony,
sharing ceremony, and teaching ceremony. With all of our ceremonies are the songs, we need to be proud to sing and we need to share and teach others the songs to support our language and culture preservation. The new TKL Director will work with the Sector Council to operationalize their plan.

I admire all of the thoughtfulness, dedication and contributions that have gone into the TKL strategic planning and know the importance of this clear guidance to ensure that all of our future work makes measurable progress on these goals.

The TKLAC meets on the first Wednesday of each month. These meetings are open for observers to attend, listen and learn. Ktunaxa staff are encouraged to work with their supervisors to balance their workloads and attend these meetings.

Some of the initiatives that the TKLAC have been requested to support include:

Tourism related project requests:

The Rotary Club of Cranbrook worked with the TKLAC to begin discussing Ktunaxa Interpretive signage with a Centennial Rotary Reconciliation Tower in Moir Park and the outdoor classroom at the ridge trail project at Idlewild Park. The Rotary Club continues their fundraising efforts to complete these projects.

Nelson Izu-shi Friendship Society – signage project is located around the Cottonwood creek in Nelson. They are requesting from the TKLAC names of wildlife and trees and historical information on that area. The sign will serve as an introduction for visitors and to encourage an interest to search for more information.

Kootenay Adaptive Sports Association are upgrading their website and the East Kootenay bike route. They are seeking TKLAC to provide names for their bike trails and information on the Ktunaxa. The request includes permission to learn and use Ktunaxa place names and the identification of points of interest.

Additional tourism initiated requests are related to Wildsight Wilmer Weltlands, Chief Isadore’s relationship with Colonial Baker and Same Steele, Tri City COOP Video production and the Kootenay Columbia Confluence.

TKL Advisory Committee (TKLAC)

The TKLAC is comprised of two representatives fromʔakisʔnuk, ʔaq̓am, Yaqan nuʔkiy and yaʔit ʔaʔknuqʔliʔit, appointed by BCR from their respective Chief and Councils. There is currently a vacancy for a second representative from Yaqan nuʔkiy. The representatives are:

- Beatrice Stevens, ʔakisʔnuk
- Marie Nicholas, ʔakisʔnuk
- Sophie Pierre, ʔaq̓am
- Kay Shottanana, ʔaq̓am
- Anne Jimmy, Yaqan nuʔkiy
- Elizabeth Ignatius, yaʔit ʔaʔknuqʔliʔit
- Mary Mahseelah, yaʔit ʔaʔknuqʔliʔit

The TKLAC is comprised of two representatives fromʔakisʔnuk, ʔaq̓am, Yaqan nuʔkiy and yaʔit ʔaʔknuqʔliʔit, appointed by BCR from their respective Chief and Councils. There is currently a vacancy for a second representative from Yaqan nuʔkiy. The representatives are:
Qat’muk IPCA Statement: Vision and Principles

The TKLAC were called upon by the Lands and Resources Sector to assist in the development of the Qat’muk IPCA Statement: Vision and Principles. The following preamble provides you with a sample of this work:

We, the Ktunaxa have a role and responsibility to steward ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa. Qat’muk is a place of strength and spirituality for Ktunaxa. The Qat’muk landscapes and adjacent waterways have sustained Ktunaxa ḥʔaq̓is Ktunaxa since the beginning of time. We have stewardship responsibilities for ḥʔa·kxaʔniʔ ʔapi qapsin, throughout ḥʔamakʔis Ktunaxa. Qat’muk is a place to be Ktunaxa, according to the knowledge shared with us, through our covenant with the Creator to protect and steward Qat’muk.

COTR New Student Housing Buildings - The TKLAC worked with the College of the Rockies to have the new student housing building named in Ktunaxa. The Elders put much thought into what they felt would be appropriate and decided that they would like to call the group of buildings ḥʔa·kikłu’nam which translates into village and that the 5 student housing building should be the Ktunaxa word for each of the five First Nations in Ktunaxa ḥʔamakʔis:

- ḥʔaq̓am – St. Mary’s
- ḥʔakisʔnuk – Columbia Lake
- Kyaknuq̓liʔit (Kinbasket Shuswap)
- Yaq̓it ḥʔa·knuq̓liʔit – Tobacco Plains
- Yaqan Nuʔkiy – Lower Kootenay

This project was funding in part by the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Columbia Basin Trust. Celebrations and unveiling of the building names was planned a few times over the year and had to be rescheduled due to Covid-19. The celebration and unveiling is taking place in September 2022.

Collaboration

The Lands and Resources Sector Council established a Cultural Awareness Working Group to support the work of the Lands and Resources Sector and its Sector Council. The TKL Director works closely with the Lands and Resources Director to connect this working group with the work of the TKLAC and the TKLA.

There really is no end to the requests for TKLAC to provide language and culture advise both internally and externally. The TKLAC also has a vital role in Ktunaxa Research projects and in supporting Ktunaxa capacity development. I would like to thank the TKLAC for all that they do in offering their advice and knowledge as we strive to grow Ktunaxa capacity and territorial presence.

TKL Staff Lead Initiatives

Smokii Sumac, Integration Specialist

Ktunaxa culture, language and worldviews are the core of who we are. The Integration Specialist position has an integral role in identifying and creating spaces where
Ktunaxa language, culture and knowledge can be integrated to build Ktunaxa competencies in Ktunaxa people and the KNC. Smokii Sumac joined the TKL Team as the Integration Specialist in January 2021. This position supported researching, storing, contextualizing and communicating Ktunaxa culture and language in the journey to realize the vision statement. Smokii worked collaboratively within KNC andʔakisʔnuk, ʔaq̓am, Yq̓ən nuy̱kiy and qaʔitʔaʔknuqʔiʔit to support Ktunaxa integration and focused time and energy into research to support revitalizing Ktunaxa culture and language.

The Integration Specialist quickly recognized the need for a TKL-based Cultural Management Plan that would require external to find their fit into our plan rather than for KNC to develop separate cultural management plans for each external organization. This plan needs to be Ktunaxa-centric and support all of the sectors in the integration of Ktunaxa Knowledge, Language and Values. It additionally needs to consider strategic alignment with the priorities and activities ofʔakisʔnuk, ʔaq̓am, Yq̓ən Nuʔkiy, and Yaʔq̓itʔaʔa knuqʔiʔit. Initial work was completed in the research phase that will help support the completion of a TKL Cultural Management Plan in the near future.

This summer, TKL hosted a Ktunaxa Culture Camp that was innovative in its delivery (online, asking participants to post their activities onto a dedicated Facebook page) and it turned into an AMAZING success.

-- 55 Teams of Ktunaxa, from Huckleberry Hounds to Team WiSh and many in between

-- Challenges that inspired families and teams to be on the land together

-- Creative, fun adventures as Ktunaxa shared culture with Ktunaxa

**Congratulations, everyone, for making the Amazing Race so meaningful and FUN.**

Thank you to Smokii Sumac, Ktunaxa Integration Specialist; Bertha Andrews, Administration and Prize Picker Champion; the TKL, Education and Employment, and Core Services teams; and our sponsors Teck and Columbia Power.
The important work of managing, preserving and protecting Ktunaxa knowledge and records is an incredible responsibility. This past year Margaret was able to gain the support of Dawn in assisting in the continuous digitization activities that are critical in the process to be able create a Ktunaxa Resource Library that we will be able to share with citizens upon completion. In addition to the archive efforts, Margaret has a role in facilitating tours at the SEM, and Dawn has assisted in the SEM Interpretive Center.

Levi has dedicated his time this past year to ensuring that communications are flowing to the right people, and supporting the organization of various meetings and activities. There is an enormous demand for TKL staff and the TKLAC, and it is Levi’s responsibility to find ways to create efficiencies in the flow and storage of information to support meeting these demands while minimizing administrative tasks on our knowledge resources. Having young Ktunaxa people in these integrated roles also provides opportunity for Ktunaxa capacity building, and the Elders have expressed their appreciation of their presence.

Lillian Rose, TKL Coordinator

Lillian joined the TKL team in April 2021. This position supports all of the Ktunaxa communities in a cooperating, complimenting, and collaborating manner to maximize the achievement of traditional knowledge, language, and culture revitalization that can be shared and celebrated by all Citizens, communities, and as a Nation. Ktunaxa citizen capacity development is key in the achievement of building Ktunaxa people up and in realizing growth in language and cultural competencies.

The position participates in planning with a range of initiatives to ensure appropriate Ktunaxa Nation history (culture and language) is made available to the KNC, KKCFSS, and Nation Citizens. Through the active participation in the organization and coordination of events, programs, projects, and gatherings, this position provides cultural and language resources to support instilling a positive sense of Ktunaxa Cultural Pride.

Lillian spearheaded a project this past year that focused on supporting citizens in the practice of material harvesting. The following calendar was created to offer citizens a roadmap to traditional materials, and a number of workshops were also facilitated to share material harvesting knowledge with Ktunaxa seeking to learn this art.

- ?uthumi – high water – May
- Arrow-leafed Balsam Root – Rocky Mountain Trench – Canal Flats to Tobacco Plains and Creston
- Nodding Onions – Columbia Lake
- Nacumsu – Rocky Mountain Trench – Canal Flats to Tobacco Plains and Creston
- Cedar Roots – Golden, Creston and Fernie area
- Spruce Roots – Kootenay National Park – Crooks Meadows
- Kuqukpku – ripening of strawberries – June
- Cedar Roots – Golden, Creston and Fernie area
- Spruce Roots – Kootenay National Park – Crooks Meadows
- Birch Bark – Fernie, Creston, Golden, Brisco area
- Oregon Grape – Berries and Roots – Eco Dyes – Creston
- Dog Bane – Indian Hemp - Columbia Lake, Canal Flats Bridge, Wasa Sloughs
- White Bark Pine – Creston, Elk Valley, Lake Louise
- Kuku skumu – ripening of Saskatoon berries - July
- Skumu, Huckleberries, Yew – Emerald Lake – Yoho
- Wolf Willow Bark and Seeds – August – Canmore/Banff
- White Bark Pine – Creston, Elk Valley, Lake Louise

A second highlight from Lillian’s year ongoing development of the Our Land – Our Stories – Our Words initiative. The Ktunaxa Nation Council Traditional Knowledge and Language Sector will be launching Our Land - Our Stories - Our Words magazine in April 2023. We are currently posting a call for all Ktunaxa artists, storytellers, writers and photographers, beadiers, painters, performers, poets and Politicians to submit ads, photos and stories.

This is a publication that captures and defines Ktunaxa and their relationship to mountain spaces with a particular emphasis placed on the northern portions of the traditional territory and those lands encompassed under the Federal National Park System including Kootenay, Yoho/Lake Louise, Glacier, Waterton and Banff National Parks. This publication will be developed and designed to capture Ktunaxa history, cultural values, oral and traditional history, archaeological evidence of Ktunaxa use and occupancy, archival research, storytelling and art. Submissions will be edited and curated and credited. Fees will be paid to contributing individuals. Please join us in this project. For more information contact Lillian Rose, at 250-342-1635 or email Lillian.Rose@ktunaxa.org

**Barbara Fisher, Language Coordinator**

Barbara Fisher joined the team in February 2022, bringing with her an excellent language skill set and a heartfelt desire to dedicate herself to knowledge transfer. Barbara also brings lots of experience in translating and transcribing and a keenness to give language resources more prominence. Barbara has spent her initial months with TKL working on resource development, supporting language inclusion in various
sector project, assisting with presentations and events, and in planning and facilitating culture camps.

Language and Culture Resources

Ktunaxa Calendar

The 2022 calendar was produced with the support of a number of people and sectors. Copies were distributed to ʔakisʔnuk, ʔaq̓am, Yaqan Nuʔkiy, and Yaqit ʔa·kn̓uq̓ʔit’ to share with citizens, as well as available at the KNC. To help offset the cost, we also sold the calendar through Skinkuȼ Treasures at Tamarack Centre. We are dedicated to the annual production of this resource and look forward to its next rendition already in the planning stages.

Dr. Christopher Horsethief

We are grateful to continue to see the output of innovative and informative resources from Dr. Christopher Horsethief. We encourage everyone to check out these resources; to set small goals to develop language skills; and to celebrate who we are as Ktunaxa.

TKL: Ktunaxa Grammar Apps

Ktunaxa Grammar App (Android)  Ktunaxa Grammar App (iOS)

Ktunaxa Grammar App (browser)
Indigenous Language: New Videos

1. Indigenous Language Topics 1: Why metalanguage?
https://vimeo.com/674742716
2. Indigenous Language Topics 2: The Magic Pill Fallacy
https://vimeo.com/671336321
3. Indigenous Language Topics 3: Boarding School Effects
https://vimeo.com/671363884
4. Indigenous Language Topics 4: Input, Intake and Affective Filters
https://vimeo.com/676539386
5. Indigenous Language Topics 5: Noticing (being edited)
6. Indigenous Language Topics 6: Comprehensible input and Comprehensible Output (being recorded)

A Look Forward

It is important to share with citizens the goals that the TKL sector has set for the next year as we continue to strive to meet our overarching language and cultural revitalization needs and interests.

Highlights from the 2022/23 TKL Work Plan include:

- Processing and digitizing records; sharing of records with ?akisqnuk, ?aʔqam, Yaqan Nuʔkiy, and Yaʔit ?aʔknuqʔił‘it
- Development of language curriculum
- Creating a Resource Library
- Identification of Research priorities
- Hiring a Linguist and developing a Language Apprenticeship program
- Increasing cultural activities for citizens
- Increasing financial resources for TKL activities including flow through to ?akisqnuk, ?aʔqam, Yaqan Nuʔkiy, and Yaʔit ?aʔknuqʔił‘it to maximize resourcing on language and cultural revitalization.

Much work was put into development of 10 Ktunaxa stories both in English and translated into Ktunaxa. The translation of the books were completed, the next stages are to have them illustrated by Ktunaxa Artists and to create QR codes. These books will be published during the 2022/23 fiscal year.

In addition to the 10 Ktunaxa stories, updating existing resources for printing and redistribution was a focus. New generations have not seen these older resources and it is the desire of TKL to get as many resources into the hands of Ktunaxanił‘itik. The following resources have been updated:

1. Ktunaxa Grammar Book
2. Listen and Learn
3. Village Maintenance Phrase Book
4. Kutenai Nation Resource Book

These resources are intended to be printed and distributed in the 2022/23 fiscal year.

In conclusion I would like to give gratitude for the opportunity to work within the TKL Sector this past year, where I have been able to share my vulnerability in exchange for an outpouring of opportunities for me to grow my own Ktunaxa capacity. For those of you afraid to take the first step to begin to learn the language and culture I want to assure you that there are many, many, many Ktunaxa knowledge holders waiting to share their knowledge with gentle guidance and support.
Education & Employment

Message from the Sector Chair – Garrett Gravelle

I truly believe that to further our People's education that it starts in the home. Healthy and structured homes free of violence and trauma. Our children need that to truly push themselves forward in their education and become successful individuals who can give back to the people and build healthy families themselves. Without an education they're subject to menial labour jobs. Violence and trauma lead them to addiction so I can't enforce the fact of healthy and structured homes gives our people the best opportunity to make a better life and the most important a chance at having a good education.

Education & Employment Sector Director Message, Codie Morigeau

Thank you to the Education and Employment Sector Council for their leadership and guidance over the past year. In 2018, they approved the Sector’s strategic plan that included the four pillars: empowering Ktunaxa centered education; workforce training for Ktunaxa centered employment; Ktunaxa informed governance; and community engagement in Ktunaxa centered lifelong learning. The Sector Council’s leadership guides us in our work to ensure it aligns with the pillars within the strategic plan and their approved Mission Statement:

We are Ktunaxa Citizen-Centered, working creatively and strategically withʔaq̓tsmaʔn̓ik, inʔamakʔis Ktunaxa, to support and empower Indigenous people in reaching their full potential, achieving self-sufficiency and overall desired quality of life. (Approved March 2018)

The Education & Employment Sector Council is comprised of:

- Garrett Gravelle, Chair, Yaʔitʔaʔnuqʔit
- Rosemary Phillips/Lillian Rose,ʔakisʔn̓uk
- Vickie Thomas,ʔaʔq̓am
- Cherie Luke, Yaʔan Nuʔkiy

Thanks to each of you for your support and guidance!

Like the other sectors, this past year has been one of change and adaption for the Education and Employment Team. Smokii Sumac was appointed Interim Director for the EE Sector, and led the team to greater understanding of Ktunaxa culture and the excitement of approaching work from a place of dreaming and growing potential. Bertha Andrews also decided it was time to move on and retire in May 2022. The entire EE staff would like to extend their gratitude to both Smokii and Bertha for all that they did over the years to bring culture, laughs and order to the team.
The Education & Employment Sector staff includes:

- Codie Morigeau, Interim Director
- Kristi Strobbe, Manager and ʔa·knusti Integration Coordinator
- Meagan Bremner, Employment Officer
- Andrew Fletcher, Executive Assistant
- Brandon Hunt, Client Services Worker
- Kari Gjertson, Aboriginal Client Case Worker
- Jenn Higgenbottom, Client Services Worker
- Meagan Bremner, Employment Officer
- Andrew Fletcher, Executive Assistant
- Brandon Hunt, Client Services Worker
- Kari Gjertson, Aboriginal Client Case Worker
- Jenn Higgenbottom, Client Services Worker
- Leanna Gravelle, Education Outreach Coordinator
- Jared Cayenne, ʔa·knusti Ranger
- Lindsey Whitehead, ʔa·knusti Ranger
- Dean Nicholas, ʔa·knusti Ranger

I would like to recognize the EE staff who have embraced these challenges and have made great strides in forming the newest rendition of Team Awesome. They continue to provide comprehensive employment, training and education services to meet the needs of Ktunaxa and other Indigenous peoples residing in ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa. Rounding out the team are the ʔa·knusti Rangers Dean Nicholas, Jared Cayenne and Lindsey Whitehead whose year was dedicated to maintaining a watchful eye on ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa (specifically in relation to wildlife management) and in growing their understanding of the complexities of the KNC, interests of the Ktunaxa First Nations, guiding/restricting legislations, and the activities of settler guests. Leanna Gravelle was also transitioned to the EE team to collaborate across both the TKL and Education and Employment Sectors to provide educational outreach, support the development of language resources and to facilitate education and cultural outreach workshops including the Interpretive Center at St. Eugene’s Resort.

As the Interim Director I continue to be inspired by the work of the EE team, as they individually and collectively bring such enthusiasm and dedication to the goal of transferring knowledge and supporting capacity development for Ktunaxa as their primary goal. I admire their gratitude and humility to grow and learn with us to support our people to be successful. The work of the team has a broad and diverse scope including: hosting large events such as the Open House and Youth Summit; facilitating cultural trainings with KNC staff, Ktunaxa Citizens, and affiliated partners; creating resources; and working individually Citizens to walk through the various employment preparation activities such as attaining safety certificates, updating resume/cover letter, and buying work gear for a new job. The team is expected to lead by example, to demonstrate initiative and a team spirit in each task, and to take the time needed to do their best for Ktunaxa Citizens and clients.

ʔa·knusti

Education and Employment in partnership with Lands and Resources collaborated on the recruitment of the ʔa·knusti team. This included supporting the administration and onboarding for the ʔa·knusti hired in April 2021.
The virtual cultural kick off and Orientation Week Started April 6, 2022 that included morning sessions via zoom led by Smokii Sumac and Christopher Horsethief as well as other Lands and Resources staff and Knowledge Holders. Afternoons provided the opportunity for each participant to connect with a Knowledge Holder or Elder of their choosing to spend some time out on the land. The weeks following were a mix of cultural capacity building, safety training and orientation to set them up for participation in various projects within the Ktunaxaʔamakʔis. Each position has evolved over this last year and overall this program has been a spark of hope and excitement to many.

Theʔa·knusti perform a critical role within the KNC vision of stewarding the lands of Ktunaxaʔamakʔis. Patrolling, scouting, monitoring, building and protecting are just some of the efforts that are taken to try to restore ecological balance and to protect traditional food security. Theʔa·knusti activities are seasonally based, and involve working in challenging environments and weather. They are required to have a solid understanding and application of Ktunaxa values; an ability to focus on detailed issues in relation to larger scope concerns and goals; and are part of the mentorship program building up the younger generations as part of the sustainability of the program.

Jared Cayenne,ʔa·knusti Guardian
Lindsey Whitehead,ʔa·knusti Guardian
Dean Nicholas,ʔa·knusti Guardian

K̓Қsuʔk kyyukyít, we started our role as ʔa·knusti in March 2021. We have come to learn that ʔa·knusti has a different meaning depending on whom you ask in the communities. Some refer to ʔa·knusti as a mid wife type of role. Others refer to it as a scout / eyes on the land for the people. One of the first opportunities we took advantage of was going to shadow the Xeni Gwetin Rangers and see how they ran their guardian program. Their circumstances are a little different in regards to their title land, as it was won in a court case against the Crown. So they are able to manage their resources and animals how they see fit in their title land without government interference. Some of the key things they said that would help us in establishing more of a presence and enhancing rights and title on our land would be putting up signage in our language on our reservation lands, and any land we have the authority to put signs up.

They also have a big food security issue on their title land. With an overabundance of predators they were seeing a big decline in their ungulate populations (i.e Moose, Mule Deer) and lots of their members were finding it hard to hunt for food. So they implemented hunting regulations on their people to limit how many ungulates were taken out of their territory. They also implemented a predator reduction program through their ranger program, targeting mostly grizzly bears.
and wolves. Their rangers also do patrols out on the land to make sure people are following the rules and to have eyes on the ever changing landscape and reporting back what they see.

They also have ranger stations set up with wi-fi and radio stations through out their title land so the rangers have a satellite base of operations as well as gate houses on the roads entering their title land. They also have other larger cabins for community to use together for gathering berries, medicines and hunting or just getting out on the land. A little fun fact about Nemaiah Valley where the Xeni Gwetin are located, is that they have lots of wild horses still running around and there is a documentary about it called The Wild Ones. When out on patrol with the rangers we had the chance to harvest two black bears. Later that year in September 2021 the chief of Xeni Gwetin, Jimmy Lulua came to ?amak?is Ktunaxa and harvested his first ever bull elk.

Last trapping season (November 2021 – April 2022) we started using one of ?a?am’s trap lines which is registered as TR0421T005. It is located north of Cranbrook and starts at about Fort Steele and extends north to Columbia Lake, it also goes to the height of land to the east and to the Kootenay River to the west. This particular trap line hasn’t been used for about 60 years or so. We decided on a spot within the trap line, close to Bighorn sheep wintering range habitat located near the Quartz lake area to help manage the over predation in that herd. We set a goal of 20 coyotes for the year and to catch at least one wolf as none of us had caught one prior to this trapping season. We ended off the season with 21 coyotes 4 fox and 1 wolf. We caught the wolf on one of our last days having the traps out which was a great ending to the season.

One reason we think that passing these skills on to our next generation is so important is because we used these skills to catch things to make our regalia for ceremonies as well as just everyday clothing. We also had Elders expressing interest...
in wanting to start giving furs away at nation-to-nation meetings or government-to-government meetings and move away from giving Pendleton blankets. We also had some traps set up on ?aʔam’s reserve in various locations to help with ungulate calf/fawn survival rate as it is a key wintering range for elk and deer.

We’ve also helped Lands and Resources department and worked on various projects with them such as high elevation grassland studies in the elk valley, accompanying the KNC fisheries guardian on compliance monitoring, and also monitoring of archeological sites around BC Hydro dams.

Social Education Employment Meeting (SEEMs)


It provides an opportunity for participants to share successes and best practices, provide updates, share upcoming programs in Ktunaxa ?amakʔis , and create space for collaborative discussions for program delivery. At the request of the group, we also include guests from Post-Secondary Educational Institutions, and Industry partners to discuss education, employment and training. Coming together on a regular basis is a great opportunity to learn from one another.

Indigenous Skills, Employment and Training Strategy (ISETS)

The Indigenous Skills, Employment and Training Strategy (ISETS) is a federally funded program where we are able to provide services and funding for First Nations people living in Ktunaxa ?amakʔis to attend Post-Secondary training up to a diploma level, upgrading, vocational, and trades training. Additional services include providing Industry Training, Support
Service Fund Support, and the Self-Created Summer Student Program.

During the 2021-2022 Fiscal year 15 Post-Secondary Clients were supported in the following programs:

- Automotive Technician
- Aboriginal Education Support Worker
- Health Care Assistant
- Human Service Worker
- Environmental Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Counselling Psychology
- Welding x3
- Aboriginal University Studies
- Log Scaling and Grading
- Basic Security Guard Training
- Dental Hygiene
- Assistive Technology Capacity Development

The Support Services Fund supports clients access funding for personal protective equipment and other required items for an immediate employment opportunity. This year 39 Individuals accessed the Support Service Fund.

We also offer Industry Training to support clients to gain or renew Industry certifications. This year 18 clients accessed this training to gain certifications in: Occupational First Aid levels 1 and 3, Security Safety, Dangerous Tree Assessor, Oil Sands Safety, Construction Safety, H2S, WHIMIS, Serving It Right, Food Safe, CORE, PAL and Traffic Control.

The Self-Created Summer Student Program support students from the ages of 15-29 to create a work opportunity during the summer months to help them gain work experience as well as receive exposure to opportunities that they are interested in as a career. For the 2021-2022 Fiscal year we had 20 Summer Students take part in the Self-Created Summer Student Program. Summer Student placements included:

- Ella’s Café
- Astorforoff Construction
- Nupqu
- St. Eugene Mission and Golf Resort
- KOA Campground
- ?aʔam
- Dominos Pizza
- Yaʔit ?a-knuq̓q̓iʔit
- Days Inn
- Legend Logos
- KNC – Traditional Knowledge and Language Sector
- Rez Dawgs
- KNC – Lands and Resources Sector
- ?aʔam Trading
- ?akisʔnuk Finance

Thank you to all of the students for the opportunity to work with you and a thank you to all of the businesses that hosted employment opportunities for our youth!

**BladeRunners**

BladeRunners is a provincially funded program to support unemployed and at-risk Indigenous youth between the ages of 15-29 with training and employment seeking goals. This program consists of life skills, employability skills, job readiness skills industry certifications, work experience/on-the-job training, job coaching, and ongoing support.

Due to the impact Covid-19 had on our face-to-face learning environment and the lack of service provider availability, we had to get creative with our programming. We were able to secure and deliver laptops to support those who needed them, arranged 1:1 zoom calls to check in on our participants and met them socially distanced to support their success. This year 36 youth participated in a variety of training that included:

- Driver’s License exams
- Driver’s training
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Red Cross Babysitter Course
- PAL/Core Hunter Training
- Flagging Certification
- OFA Level 1
- Transportation and Endorsement
- Safety Officer Training
- OFA Level 3
- Fire Suppression
• Basic Security Guard Certificate

**WorkBC**

WorkBC is a Provincial mainstream program that supports unemployed British Columbians. We have a partnership with Kootenay Employment Services (KES) who is the contract provider for the region. Under this partnership we have an Aboriginal Client Case Worker who works with all Aboriginal clients who are unemployed, under-employed (less than 20 hours/weeks), or precariously employed (unstable or unsustainable). This creates an opportunity to provide culturally safe services to Aboriginal clients that includes referring them to all programs, services and supports. Our Client Case Worker assists clients to find meaningful & sustainable employment through the KNC office and WorkBC offices in Cranbrook, Fernie and Invermere. Additionally, services are also provided in other towns/villages and with any of the four Ktunaxa First Nations. Some of the services & supports provided include:

• Resume & cover letter writing assistance
• Interview skills preparation
• Occupational skills training
• Short duration training
• Project based labour market training (PBLMT)
• Wage Subsidy placements
• Employment counselling/coaching
• Job search supports (gas cards, bus passes, interview clothing)
• Job start supports (transportation, clothing, tools, etc.)
• On-the-job coaching
• CBT funding for short term certifications
• Short term occupational certification
• Specialized assessment & personal counselling referrals
• Self-employment services
• Employment workshops

**Industry and Education Partners**

TECK Coal

Education and Employment works with Teck as a member of the Employment Task Group (ETG) for the Impact Management Benefit Agreement (IMBA), Below is the Annual Report from the ETG:

Mission: To raise the quality of life for all Ktunaxa Citizens through education and employment.

**Year 5 Highlights:**

The Employment Task Group continues to work towards three main goals: Life Long Learning – Inspire and nurture Citizens interests through Educational Activities; Direct Employment Support – Specialized pathways to meaningful employment, not limited to Teck Coal; Exponential Involvement – the place for relationship building, linkages, and innovation to create space and opportunities for Ktunaxa Citizens

To meet the ETG goal of lifelong learning, we assisted in the planning and implementation aspects required for KNC to hire a cohort of 10 ḥa·knusti in April 2021. The KNC-ETG members assisted in the coordinating of an 8-week onboarding schedule, as it was important to provide the group with safety training, cultural foundations, and an introduction to the land stewardship work occurring in the Lands and Resources Sector. Currently the ETG members are assisting in coordinating the reflective components for the cohort to ensure that their experiences from this past year and their recommendations are being used to guide the strategic next steps for this program.

With the pandemic limiting in-person events, the ETG canceled the May Mining Event and instead extended their support to the CWG Culture Camp this past year titled “Ktunaxa Amazing Race.” This event ran throughout the summer providing Ktunaxa families with a series of challenges intended to inspire families to spend more time on the land, and to share their stories with each other. Bertha Andrew made it her special purpose to get as many people involved as possible with over 300 Ktunaxa participating in the event. Weekly prizes were awarded to participants and the dedicated Facebook Page ([https://www.facebook.com/groups/1570049873206293](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1570049873206293)) was a fantastic celebration of Ktunaxa on the land.
Canfor Joint Management Advisory Committee (JMAC)

The Employment Sub-Committee meets quarterly to ensure opportunities are available for Ktunaxa Citizens in all employment areas within Canfor and Canfor’s Contractors. We encourage anyone interested in learning more about opportunities within the Forest Industry to reach out to our team for more information.

Canfor provides an annual bursary of $4000 to support Ktunaxa students’ education in various subject areas such as trades apprenticeships and post-secondary fields, which include Administration, Business, and Human Resources.

This year’s recipients included students in the following fields:

- Law degree on Aboriginal Law
- Eco Hydrology
- Environmental Science
- Arts and Science Diploma in Archaeology
- Welder Foundation Program

BC Hydro

BC Hydro provides funding to support Ktunaxa Citizens in attaining drivers licence training.

On top of BC Hydro’s provincial scholarship applications, they also provided $7000 directly to Ktunaxa Students in the following areas of study:

- Law degree on Aboriginal Law
- Eco Hydrology
- Environmental Science
- Arts and Science Diploma in Archaeology
- Welder Foundation Program
- Welder Apprenticeship Program
- Indigenous Social Work

The link to the provincial application page is included below, members from Education and Employment are always happy to provide support with the process.

College of the Rockies (COTR)

The College of the Rockies and the KNC have had a long-standing relationship, including being instrumental in its formation. The KNC has a MOU with the COTR that was signed in 2019. This MOU builds upon our initial MOU (2007) and acknowledges the Indigenous Education Protocol for Colleges and Institutes (CICAN) signing in July 2015 by the College, Ktunaxa Nation, Metis Nation of BC, and Shuswap Band. We recognize the importance of the College to assist with preservation and strengthening of land, language, and culture through the power of education, applied research, and economic development.

College of the Rockies is a regional college, with seven campuses throughout Ktunaxaʔamakʔis. For more than 40 years, they have provided post-secondary education that meets the needs and aspirations of the people, industry and businesses of this region. College of the Rockies operates on four core values: the belief that student success drives our success; an appreciation of people, land, and culture; listen to accelerate understanding; and a desire to be curious and creative.

Through the MOU the College of the Rockies is committed to communication on a regular basis pertaining to any curriculum/program development or changes that may impact the Ktunaxa Nation or the communities. The MOU also seeks to support the designing new curriculum, learning centers and programming that is Nation based, community driven. Through the MOU the College is required to ensure that each of its campuses are aware of this MOU and have a strong working relationship with the nearest Ktunaxa community. This MOU is a stronger step in forming a much more meaningful relationship. Together the Education and Employment Sector and the College of the Rockies work together to create an annual workplan that allows us to set achievable goals that strive to make a difference for Ktunaxaniʔitk and other Aboriginal people attending the College of the Rockies.

https://www.bchydro.com/community/indigenous-relations/opportunities/individuals/donations_sponsorships.html
Selkirk College

The Education and Employment Sector hosted Selkirk College, one of our MOU Partners, to tour the area and discuss their Environment & Geomatics Programs offered out of their Castlegar Campus. Some of the programs offered are:

- Forest Technology
- Geographic Information Systems
- Integrated Environmental Planning
- Recreation, Fish and Wildlife

We are hoping to collaborate in the future on an Environmental certificate program where we can involve local Knowledge Holders in the delivery.

Youth Summit

The 4th annual Ktunaxa Nation Youth Summit took place April 16th & 17th 2021, and was hosted virtually via zoom. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we were not able to gather in person as we had in previous years. We strived to have an event that was fun, engaging, and provided a safe place to ask questions and expand knowledge. Previous years we provided accommodations, meals, and various entertainment, so this year we had to get creative with ways to make sure the youth feel just as valued as previous years. We also had to consider that not all youth have access to the technology required to attend a virtual event, so we included an Amazon Fire Tablet in each of the swag bags so all youth would have access to the event. The swag bags also included a backpack, water bottle, headphones, tablet stand, toque, beading supplies, and $50 gift certificate for pizza. We had 72 participants, which is our record participants in the 4 years the event has taken place.

This year’s special guests were Jordyn Burnouf and Notorious Cree.
Jordyn Burnouf is a member of the Black Lake First Nation in Treaty 8 and grew up in the Métis community of Île-à-la-Crosse in Treaty 10, SK. Jordyn is Sr. Associate with the consulting firm, Medicine Rope Strategies (M-R Strategies), dedicated to providing sustainable, practical, and innovative approaches to community, economic, and strategic partnership development. With a strong passion for and relationship with the land, Jordyn is currently working on clean energy initiatives with a focus on land-based teachings and the connection to environment and energy, cultural inclusion, and youth engagement. Jordyn is leading her community’s energy efficiency project as part of Indigenous Clean Energy’s national initiative, Bringing it Home, to address the housing and energy needs of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit communities in Canada. Jordyn continues to advocate and create space for youth and women in the energy sector in Canada as a member of Indigenous Clean Energy’s Advisory Council, and as the Co-Chair of the 2021 SevenGen Indigenous Youth Energy Summit. Jordyn and the youth had a great engaging conversation around clean energy, what it is like to be a youth in 2021, and how to get involved in community.

Notorious Cree is a men’s Fancy Powwow dancer and Top 3 World Hoop Dancer who also plays the flute and hand drum. He is a TikTok, and Instagram influencer. Notorious Cree blends traditional, modern and contemporary arts mixed with comedy to showcase a high energy performance. Notorious Cree provided the youth with a Powwow fitness class. It was really great to see a lot of the youth participating in this workout. He also gave an impressive Hoop Dance performance.

We also had breakout sessions were the youth learned about the different Sectors of the KNC, an opportunity to hear from our Industry Partners, as well as Elder Pete Sanchez who reminded the youth to consider the land and who is going to protect it when they are thinking about their futures.

The event wrapped up with both Jordyn Burnouf and Notorious Cree giving a joint speech about virtual presence, social media, their lives growing up and how they ended up in their current careers. Their chemistry was great and the way they talked to each other, and asked each other questions was captivating. Overall the event was a huge success, with great feedback from the youth!

Additional Team Highlights

Open House

On March 29th the Education and Employment team hosted their Annual Open House. This event is intended to provide Citizens, clients, community and business partners a chance to come to the main office to network and to learn about the various services and initiatives of the sector. This year the event was required to go virtual. Presentations were provided by each sector as well as from a number of industry and education partners. The event was well attended and overall a great success.

Education Outreach

Both Smokii Sumac and Leanna Gravelle contributed to the cultural education outreach we were able to provide to external partners and general public this past year. Smokii focussed attention on influencing upper management with key industry partners as well as supporting internal education of staff supporting the launching of the new Employee Guide. Leanna was responsible for the SEM Interpretive Center and the...
goal of updating and enhancing the displays and tours. Leanna also spearheaded the annual Ktunaxa calendar project, calling in support from the EE and Communications team to complete the project.

**Team Day**

We kicked off 2022 with a great staff day, spending time out on the land in the chilly -20 temperatures. We have been busy planning for this next fiscal year and getting our new staff oriented with all of the programs and Services offered under Education and Employment. We look forward to being able to offer our services in person again and welcome you to come and visit us! We have many new faces grace Education and Employment and some familiar ones too, drop by our Service Center to say hello and let us help you with your employment and training needs.
Lands & Resources Sector

Message from the Sector Chair – Jason Andrew

Kiʔsuʔk kyuʔit Ḍapiniskiʔ! Hu qaq̕ik Jason Andrew. Hu ʔuʔini Ktunaxa, hu q̕aʔi q̕aʔiʔ ʔaq̕am. I have been a Lands and Resources Sector Council member since 2018 and I have been recently appointed as the Chair. I am pleased to highlight some of the work that has happened during the 2021/2022 reporting year.

I would like to start by acknowledging Sandra Luke, who previously was the Chair of the Lands and Resources Sector Council. Sandra has provided guidance and leadership to the Lands and Resources Sector as well as the other Lands and Resources Sector Council members.

I would also like to acknowledge Avery Gravelle and Lillian Rose for your leadership contributions to the Lands and Resources Sector Council over the last year.

Over the last year the Lands and Resources Sector Council has been providing direction to the Lands and Resources Sector staff in order to protect and steward ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa for the benefit of Ktunaxa qaʔis Ktunaxa and ʔaʔamq̕apn̓isi q̕api q̕apsin. The Lands and Resources Sector Council have been working with British Columbia and the Federal government to provide direction in advancing reconciliation for the Ktunaxa Nation. The following are priorities that the Lands and Resources Sector have worked on over the last year:

- Water Quality in ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa
- Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative
- Columbia River Treaty
- Encroachment of ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa by outside governments and organizations
- Proposed mining activities in ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa
- ʔaʔamq̕apn̓isi Mentorship Program
- Providing the governments of British Columbia and Canada direction to advance reconciliation

This past year, the Lands and Resources Sector implemented the Lands Advisory Working Group (LAWG), which is comprised of Ktunaxa Elders and Knowledge Holders from Ḍakisʔn̓uk, ʔaʔamq̕, Yaqan Nuʔkiy, and Yaʔq̕it ʔaʔamq̕apn̓isi. The LAWG provides the Lands and Resources Sector as well as Ktunaxa leadership with valuable advisory suggestions in order to make decisions that are informed by Ktunaxa culture and practices.

I would like to thank all of the Lands and Resources Sector staff for all of your continued hard work and dedication! I am thankful that the sector has a strong,
committed team who are helping the Ktunaxa Nation realize its vision!

Hu sukitqukni

**Lands & Resources Sector Director Message, Vickie Thomas**

On May 3, 2021, I officially became the Lands & Resources Sector Director, after supporting Debbie Whitehead as the Sector Director for approximately 4 months. It was a huge learning curve, I am ever so grateful for all the experiences, lessons, guidance, and feedback that I received as your director. I acknowledge Ray Warden, as I now understand the magnitude of this role. I also acknowledge my team, during the seemly constant state of change.

The Ktunaxa Lands and Resource Sector’s work is primarily outward looking, meaning we have government, industry and non-government organizations wanting to do something toʔamakʔis Ktunaxa, each request requires some level of engagement to determine if “doing to” the land is acceptable and in alignment with Ktunaxa values. A majority of staff time is spent creating space for leaders to have conversations at a strategic level with these organizations – supporting informed, confident decision-making.

I appreciate that relationships have evolved with governments, NGO’s and industry over the past decade. I am thankful for these changes however; we still have much work ahead of us. Reconciliation is not for the faint hearted. The political, social, cultural and legal environment that we work in is ever-changing and we must be ready to adapt, and just as important, assist those to adapt along side us. The intentions of the Declaration Act or UN Declaration, or reconciliation for that matter, do not always filter down to front line staff in the government or proponents. Our Leadership and Lands staff are vigilant to ensure that government and industry employees are being held to account in this regard.

Over the last year, I took time to understand the functions that the Lands Sector is responsible for. Although we only implemented minor changes, it was a helpful exercise to understand the magnitude of scope, and scope creep.

Leadership’s vision for the new/revised mandate of the sector has been put on hold until the broader governance conversations are determined.

**Looking Forward**

There will be change in the Lands Sector. A new Senior Manger will need to be recruited. I am committed to creating and supporting this transition and ensuring we continue to work together to achieve our common goals.

The Lands Sector will continue to evolve to organize ourselves around our primary functions, heeding the advice of Leadership to keep an eye to all of ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa (70,000 square kilometers). Protecting Ktunaxa interests on ʔamakʔis Ɂuʔu is a massive endeavor that can only be accomplished by working together at all levels of the collective governance structure, Citizens and staff. With that being said, one of our function areas to be developed is how we create space to improve how we look inward: within our staff team, within our Ktunaxa First Nations, our Leadership and our Citizens.

We take very seriously the message we received from the Lands and Resources Council, the collective Ktunaxa Leadership and Citizens: Ktunaxa speak for Ktunaxa. Therefore, we will continue to support the four Ktunaxa First Nations through resourcing to have their voices at the “table”, not only through financial resources but also by having staff support directly in each of the Ktunaxa First Nations. We are also committed to capacity development for our Citizens: creating space for Citizens to join the team and supporting where Citizens see themselves excelling within the sector.

With the KNC office opening up in the late spring for staff to return, about 90% of our staff are working from the office. The other 10% have arrangements to work either from Ktunaxa First Nation offices or from their home office.
Last year Covid-19 continued to reduce in-person meetings and travel. Our approach continued with hybrid in-person and on-line meetings to accommodate everyone’s preference and needs. The on-line meeting platforms increased Ktunaxa Citizen participation from all over Ḍaʔamakʔis Ktunaxa and the world; however, the hybrid approach also has its challenges.

In closing, I would like to thank the Lands and Resource Sector staff for sticking with me; there is uncertainty when there is change in the Senior Staff person of the Sector and I am very proud of how you have been agile enough to change alongside of me. To our Citizens and partners, there is much work to do and I appreciate patience while we take the time to develop how we work together to effectively steward Ḍaʔamakʔis Ktunaxa collectively with our Ktunaxa First Nations.

As most of you may know, I have taken on a new role in the organization, but I am not going far and will still be involved, bring forward the Traditional Knowledge and Language perspective.

CertainTeed received an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) in January 2018 and a Mines Act Permit in April 2019. KNC participated deeply in the EA permitted processes, and were instrumental in the development of the permit conditions in the EAC. KNC has been spearheading the negotiation of an IMBA with CertainTeed, which includes measures regarding land stewardship, procurement and employment, cultural management and financial elements.

The 300-acre mine site is expected to become fully operational soon, seeing approximately 40 trucks a day of material being mined out of the site and trucked onto rail cars. The site is mined by drilling and blasting and the material is sorted on site and trucked out for production. The estimated life span of the mine is 43 years with an estimate of 400,000 metric tonnes/yr of gypsum being excavated from the site. KNC will continue to work together with Ḍaʔamakʔis First Nation on the finalization of the IMBA and ensure an ongoing relationship with CertainTeed to ensure Ktunaxa interests are protected.
Your KNC staff team, through direction from Ktunaxa Leadership, are working hard to achieve improvements in a renewed Columbia River Treaty for Ktunaxa Nation uses, title and rights. Negotiations between Canada and the United States are accelerating and progress is being made towards better outcomes for the Nation. The Ktunaxa Nation, through the KNC, is deeply engaged in the CRT renegotiation process with the governments of Canada, British Columbia, and the Secwepemc and Syilx Nations. This collaborative work is founded on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to which both Canada and BC have made firm commitments.

Canada, with BC and the United States signed the Columbia River Treaty in 1964 without any consultation with Indigenous nations. The signing of the treaty resulted in the construction of four ‘Treaty’ dams: Duncan, Mica, Hugh Keenleyside and Libby, in turn leading to reaches of the river being turned into vast reservoirs – underwater for a part of the year and exposed and dry for other months of the year. These changes, combined with changes to river flows, resulted in huge and ongoing impacts on Ktunaxa uses of the affected areas, and thus on Ktunaxa rights.

KNC began working with Canada, BC and the other two Indigenous Nations (Secwepemc and Syilx-Okanagan) in 2011 to consider options for the future of the Treaty. This phase of work ended in 2014 with the Ktunaxa Nation Council, in collaboration with the BC government, in establishing nine principles for a renewed Treaty. These nine principles help guide the KNC staff team in the work required in the renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty.

In 2019, the five governments (Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, Syilx-Okanagan, Canada and BC) signed a comprehensive ‘CRT Negotiations Framework Agreement’ which seeks to result in the ‘free, prior and informed consent’ of the Indigenous Nations to a renewed Treaty. The five governments work together through the Negotiations Advisory Team (NAT) which includes sub-committees dealing with ecosystem function, economic benefit sharing, redress of historic impacts to indigenous uses, title and rights, governance, and scenario modelling. These sub-committees include representatives from all five governments. Each of the three Indigenous nations have also appointed two participants to the Canadian CRT negotiating team, these individuals are Jaime Vienneau and Bill Green supported by Tim Howard (legal counsel). Twelve rounds of negotiations have been held to date. Early negotiation rounds were focussed on information-sharing and exploration of interests. Negotiations have accelerated since December 2021 and substantial progress is being made, particularly with respect to protecting and enhancing ecosystem and Indigenous cultural values and supporting the restoration of anadromous salmon to the Canadian portion of the Columbia River. Important parallel work continues on...
the Canadian side outside of the formal Canada: US negotiations:

- Development of new Columbia River system governance arrangements to be founded on the principles of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to replace the current governance arrangement, dominated by BC Hydro;
- Negotiation of direct participation of the Indigenous Nations in the economic (and other) benefits of Columbia River Treaty operations;
- Negotiation of redress for the impacts of the CRT on Indigenous Nations’ uses, title and rights that have occurred between 1964 and the present.

The KNC CRT team consists of Jaime Vienneau, Bill Green, Ben Meunier and Tim Howard (legal counsel). We are currently seeking to expand the team in the areas of community outreach, engagement and Ktunaxa cultural values. Sandra Luke has provided important leadership guidance to the work.

Please contact Jaime Vienneau (Jaime.Vienneau@ktunaxa.org) or Bill Green (bgreen@ktunaxa.org) if you have questions, comments or would like more information.

**Bringing the Salmon Home – the Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative (CRSRI) – Update for 2022**

Bringing the Salmon Home: The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative (CRSRI) is the Indigenous-led collaboration of the Syilx Okanagan Nation, Ktunaxa Nation, Secwépemc Nation, Canada and British Columbia. For more than 80 years, dams have blocked salmon from returning to the upper Columbia region. This initiative continues multi-generational efforts to heal a complex salmon system impacted by hydro-electric dams, human development and habitat disruption the length of the Columbia River. This is urgent and long-term work.

Our work over the past year has continued to develop and support our Indigenous-led governance processes and working groups, and to design and launch priority technical studies and diverse communications channels and engagement activities.

The original three year renewable Letter of Agreement (LOA) for this initiative was extended through the signing of an Addendum effective July 29, 2022 to March 31, 2025. By working together in this Indigenous-led partnership, and in making these joint commitments and actions, we continue to build on our shared vision of working together to bring the salmon home. This is a positive step in our journey.

Sandra Luke, Marty Williams, and Lance Thomas are KNC representatives on the Indigenous Knowledge Counsel (IKC), which was newly formed in 2021. The IKC provides recommendations for how Indigenous Knowledge will inform and guide CRSRI. The new Counsel members have oriented themselves with CRSRI, and the IKC has met with the Technical Working Group to explore cultural questions and opportunities for blending Indigenous Knowledge with the science to better understand feasibility and options around salmon reintroduction.

Jason Andrew and Sandra Luke are KNC representatives on the Executive Working Group (EWG). The EWG provided strategic leadership on a number of tasks including approval of the terms of reference for the Indigenous Knowledge Counsel. The EWG also met with BC Hydro representatives to explore a possible working relationship. Two online CRSRI internal forums were also hosted to strengthen working group connections and explore trends and strategies: River of Change, June 29-30, 2021 and Rights of Rivers/Rights of Nature, February 15, 2022.
Lilian Rose and Sandra Luke are KNC representatives on the Implementation Team (IT). The Implementation Team continues to provide oversight of the implementation of the July 29, 2019 Letter of Agreement. Meeting monthly, the IT provides direction to the CRSRI Management Team and Technical Working Group. As part of the IT’s approval-in-principle to support the extension and renewal of CRSRI for an additional three years, the IT prepared a comprehensive Case for Continued Support for CRSRI that the three Indigenous members of the EWG forwarded to the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the provincial Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, for action.

Misun Kang and Ben Meunier are KNC representatives on the Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG met monthly over the past year with the following objectives:

- To share information about the independent and shared activities of each government as they relate to salmon reintroduction.
- To provide input and guidance for technical work and clarify priorities for addressing key knowledge gaps around feasibility and options to support salmon reintroduction.
- To guide technical coordination with others (e.g., IKC, Introductions and Transfer Committee, US partners, dam owners/operators).

Key accomplishments of the TWG include:

- Launching three technical studies, each led by one of the Indigenous Nations, and establishing sub-committees to support the studies:
  - A synthesis and standardization of knowledge around salmon habitat in the Canadian Columbia River (led by Secwépemc Nation);
  - A risk assessment for a multi-year salmon reintroduction (led by Ktunaxa Nation); and,
  - An initial learning design for a salmon reintroduction release into the Canadian portion of the Columbia River (led by Syilx Okanagan Nation).
- Working with the IT to develop a set of priority feasibility questions that need to be answered through the technical work.
- Developing a Knowledge Synthesis Report
- Identifying priority technical activities for the future phases of CRSRI:
  - Hatchery production; donor stock options
  - Fish passage feasibility and options
  - Initial salmon reintroduction
  - Salmon habitat assessment
  - Upper Columbia River life cycle model
  - Climate change impacts and vulnerability
  - Salmon flow scenarios and feasibility
  - A longer term research and action plan

Troy Hunter is the KNC representative for the Outreach and Engagement team. The Outreach and Engagement team play important roles in this Indigenous-led Initiative, strengthening circles of communication within and across their Nations, collaborating with CRSRI partners, and raising awareness across non-Indigenous communities. During the past year, the Outreach and Engagement team supported the production of the online Bringing Home the Salmon Festival that was held on May 3 to 4, 2022. Troy Hunter organized the Spring Fling Salmon Dinner and Zoom Meeting for Ktunaxa Nation that was held on March 22nd, commemorating United Nations’ World Water Day. The Outreach and Engagement team are organizing the Youth Salmon Warriors Camp scheduled for August 19 to 23, 2022.
Kicking Horse Canyon Phase 4 Highway Twinning Project

The Kicking Horse Canyon is located just east of Golden, BC on the Trans-Canada Highway. This stretch of the highway is being upgraded from two to four lanes. Construction of the fourth and final phase to complete the 4.8 kilometres of remaining highway twinning is expected to be substantially complete by winter, 2023-24.

The impact of this construction and subsequent highway expansion will have on the local niyap (Big Horn Sheep) population is a priority for Ktunaxa. KNC Lands and Resources Sector has partnered with the Golden Rod and Gun Club (GRGC) on a monitoring program where these animals are routinely monitored on a biweekly basis and recommendations from these monitoring sessions are provided to the contractor to ensure protection of this very small herd.

On November 2, 2021, approximately 15 Ktunaxani̱ntik, Lands and Resources and Economic Sector staff participated in a tour of the Kicking Horse Canyon highway construction site. The group met with the management of Kicking Horse Canyon Constructors (KHCC) in the morning of the visit to discuss procurement opportunities and to answer questions about the overall project and were then guided through the massive project to witness the progress to date.

Land Stewardship Planning

Lands staff are working on stewardship plans for a variety of scales:

ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa Land Stewardship Plan

ʔa-knumuşt̓il̓il̓ is the law given to the Ktunaxa by the Creator and outlines that Ktunaxa are the responsible stewards of ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa. A land stewardship plan for ʔamakʔis Ktunaxa is a tool that can be used to identify how land, resources and ʔa-kxanîsqapiqapiqapsin (All Living Things) can be taken care of and protected for future generations. Developing a land stewardship plan is rooted in engagement with Ktunaxa ʔaq̓tsmaknik and
begins with conversations about a vision or dream for the future state of the land, an understanding of where we are now, and developing together what needs to be done to move towards the desired future in a proactive way.

A Ktunaxa led stewardship plan seeks to state common Ktunaxa values and individual Ktunaxa First Nation interests related to lands and resources. Work has been focused on engaging Ktunaxa First Nation’s lands staff, leadership and Ktunaxa ?aqⱡsmaknik in order to develop a framework for the this project.

**Columbia Lake East Side Stewardship Plan – The East Side of Columbia Lake is an important Ktunaxa Cultural landscape. It is the Headwaters of the Columbia River and landforms visible today are rooted in the Creation Story. It is a place to harvest plants, medicines, animals and connected travel routes to other parts of ?amakʔis Ktunaxa and the prairies. The landscape is excellent winter range for Bighorn sheep, elk and deer, provides habitat for several species-at-risk, and is part of important north-south and east-west wildlife corridors that support wide-ranging carnivores such as Grizzly Bear and link the Purcell and Rocky Mountains. Located along the pacific flyway, the Columbia wetlands provide important nesting and rearing habitat for waterfowl and migratory birds. Today, recreational use, residential and resort development, forest in-growth and climate change are all impacting the cultural and ecological values on this landscape. The Province, conservation organizations and Local Governments are all involved in managing various parts of this landscape – a Ktunaxa stewardship plan is meant to support all land managers. During this past year, work has focused on connecting with Ktunaxa ?aqⱡsmaknik on the land to learn and share how to approach stewardship planning for the Columbia Lake East Side.**

**Qukin & Ȼamna ?amakʔis Collaborative Land Stewardship Plan**

This project is intended to be a collaborative planning effort in ?amakʔis Ktunaxa and will serve as a platform for learning and application in other areas throughout ?amakʔis Ktunaxa in the future. Qukin ?amakʔis (the Elk Valley) is characterized by a rugged river valley in the heart of the southern Rocky Mountains. It is highly impacted by industrial resource extraction, development, transportation and recreation. Ȼamna ?amakʔis is also a rugged north-south valley in the southern Rocky Mountains, with a history of industrial forestry, but unlike Qukin ?amakʔis has no towns, cities, highways or railroads running through it. For the most part, the biodiversity values found in Qukin & Ȼamna ?amakʔis are unprotected, creating a gap to maintaining and enhancing ecological connectivity.

The purpose of the Qukin & Ȼamna ?amakʔis Collaborative Land Stewardship Plan is for Ktunaxa and BC to work together to develop and implement a plan that provides clear management direction for the conservation and sustainable stewardship of land, resource values and ?akxaʔís q̓api qapsin (All Living Things). This includes a framework for plan implementation through partnership and collaborative decision making. Working collaboratively on a Land Stewardship Plan is an opportunity to shift the way land and resources are taken care of and will explore opportunities for legally enforceable objectives intended to enable BC and Ktunaxa to shift away from sole reliance on a reactive, project-by-project (operational-scale) approach to management, and toward a collaborative, proactive, and strategic stewardship approach.
Mining Oversight

The Mining Oversight Team is a team dedicated to the oversight of mining projects withinʔamakʔis Ktunaxa with a major focus on coal mines in Qukinʔamakʔis (Raven’s Land but also known as the Elk Valley). The Mining Oversight Team helps support the Ktunaxa Nation in making confident informed decisions on mining projects by providing project coordination and technical expertise on mining impacts. We are currently a diverse team of seven professionals including one team lead, two project management staff, three technical experts and one cultural resource steward.

Projects and Milestones: 2021-2022

In March 2020, the Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) and British Columbia (BC) signed a “Letter of Intent” (LOI) to collaborate on the sustainable stewardship of natural resource development in Qukinʔamakʔis (Raven’s Land but also known as the Elk Valley). The agreement is for 3 years and will end in March 2023. Given the extent and magnitude of existing and proposed coal mining in Qukinʔamakʔis, the LOI has a major focus on the cumulative effects of mining toʔakxaʔmis ʔapi qapsin (All Living Things). This work has been the predominant focus of the Mining Oversight Team.

As part of the LOI, KNC and BC agreed to establish an executive level Government-to-Government table and to work together to develop a shared vision for Qukinʔamakʔis that includes short, medium and long term objectives respecting stewardship and natural resource development. In the spirit of confident and informed decision making, the Mining Oversight Team lead multiple briefings to ensure Leadership were up to speed on the fast paced and very dynamic world of coal mining in Qukinʔamakʔis. Sessions were held in September 2021, 2021 and April 2022 and were in addition to project/issue specific decisions brought to the Lands and Resources Council. The last meeting with Ktunaxa Leadership and BC Ministers was in April 2022.

Ktunaxa Leadership also met with the tribes and US Government in June of 2022 to discuss IJC. Staff have also been supporting the Dispute Resolution process for the Fording River Extension Project on the basis that the project will cause “extraordinarily adverse effects” and warrants termination prior to entering the EA process.

Staff also made progress on many technical projects including but not limited to:

- Mining Environmental Assessments
- Mining Referrals
- Koocanusa Selenium Water Quality Objective
- Westslope Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan
- Elk Valley Cumulative Effects Management Framework
The Mining Oversight Team will continue to focus on the LOI and coal mining in Qukinʔamakʔis.
Parks Canada Aquatic Stewardship Plan
Ktunaxa Nation Kootenay and Yoho National Park Bus Tour – April 2022

The Ktunaxa Nation has been collaborating with Parks Canada and Secwepemc communities to contribute to the development of an Aquatic Stewardship Plan for Yoho and Kootenay National Parks. This plan will help to guide Parks Canada’s stewardship of aquatic resources and ensure Indigenous interests and values are represented in future planning.

KNC coordinated a charter bus tour of Nation members into Kootenay and Yoho National Parks on April 7-8, 2022. This trip included 25 participants including Ktunaxa Nation Lands and Resources staff, Elders, Citizens and Youth. The tour was lead by Jaime Vienneau, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator for the Ktunaxa Nation Lands and Resources Sector and Ktunaxa representative on the Parks Canada Aquatic Stewardship Plan Technical Working Group.

During the two-day tour, traditional use information was shared by our Elders and Knowledge Holders that included a map with Ktunaxa place names. At each stop along the tour, aquatic stewardship priorities were discussed and the data collected was provided to our artist, Darcy Luke, in the development of a mind-map, outlining the priorities for the Ktunaxa Nation. These priorities are not specific to only Kootenay and Yoho National Parks but for all of ?amakʔis Ktunaxa.

ʔa·knusti
Ktunaxa ʔaknusti with the Lands Sector have been busy out on the land this past year. Jesse Thomas, Cisco Luke-Jimmy, Jaydon Francis, Lance Thomas and John Nicholas (ʔa·knusti Technicians) have undertaken various work in many locations within ?amakʔis Ktunaxa. This work has ranged from Ktunaxa led projects, industry consultation work and government to government work.

Types of Ktunaxa-led work include:

- The Bio Blitz at Qat’muk;
- Alfred Joseph’s Trails project (consists of data collection and in field mapping of historic trails within ?amakʔis Ktunaxa);
- Fossil Site visits up the Bull River;
- the Reservoir Archaeology Program,
- Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) monitoring identified conservation lands.
- participation in the Salmon Warriors youth summit

Types of collaboration with the other Nations (ONA and Secwepemc);

- Fisheries monitoring,
- fisheries patrols,
- archaeology assessments,
- terrestrial surveys and monitoring such as Big Horn Sheep monitoring and shepherding at a maternal caribou pen
- forestry assessments.

Collaboration with industry and government:

- Fisheries monitoring,
- fisheries patrols,
- archaeology assessments,
Examples of locations where work has happened are:

- Kinbasket Lake (archaeology monitoring),
- Radium and Golden (Big Horn sheep monitoring),
- Kootenay Lake (fisheries patrols)
- St Mary’s Lake (burbot inventories).
- St Mary’s pre-harvest forestry surveys
- Qukinʔamakʔis forestry surveys

Feel free to speak to any of theʔa·knusti Technicians for further details.

**Radium Big Horn Sheep (niⱡyap) Monitoring**

From March until end of May we worked monitoring the many niⱡyap that reside in and around Radium. This was put into place as the Highway Closures in the Kicking Horse Canyon were severely impacting the niⱡyap in Radium as a result of the influx of traffic through Radium.

Monitors worked 12 hour days, taking notes and tracking the different herd’s movements for Data Collection to support why this initiative was necessary to protecting the niⱡyap. The monitors brought awareness to motorists along Mile Hill around the niⱡyap with signage, amber beacon lights on the truck and their presence on the highway/alongside the highway.

Through our time from February to end of May while there were no vehicle incidents involving sheep therefore it prevented any highway mortalities for the niⱡyap during those months!

The program was implemented by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and we worked in partnership with Shuswap Indian Band to monitor 7 days a week. Darrell Luke and Elizabeth Nicholas were our niⱡyap Monitors.

This program was supposed to end in March but through weekly meetings we extended the program to mitigate the extended closure of the Kicking Horse Canyon. With this we are able to monitor through April into May until the niⱡyap fully moved up into their summering grounds.
**TC Energy Pipeline Expansion – Yahk Section**

TC Energy Corporation is in the process of upgrading an existing natural gas pipeline located near Yahk, BC. This 13km section will be upgraded to 48-inch diameter pipe to supply growing natural gas demands in southern BC. This is one of two upgrades that will be completed withinʔamakʔis Ktunaxa, the other is a section near Elko, BC with construction expected to begin in Spring of 2023.

Ktunaxa Nation Council, along with Stantec, completed an Archaeological Assessment of the proposed site in 2020. Ktunaxa Nation Council Lands and Resources partnered with Reciprocity Research in conducting a Traditional Use Study for this expansion at the request of Yaqan nuiʔkiy. The field surveys took place from October 27-30th, 2021 & February 1 & 2, 2022.

There were 15 participants and included Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) staff, members, Ktunaxa Elders and Knowledge Holders, environmental professionals, archaeologists, and anthropologists. The focus of this work was to identify Ktunaxa cultural values, within the proposed project study area. This included recording of current conditions and place-based interviews with Ktunaxa Knowledge Holders at sites of ecological and cultural importance.

Work continues in the area and is expected to be completed by Spring of 2023.

**Ktunaxa Forestry Standards**

The four Ktunaxa First Nations, with support from KNC staff, have created a Forest Standards Document (FSD) forʔa·knumuȼtiⱡiⱡ Ktunaxa. The forest management objectives, strategies, practices and expected outcomes clearly articulated within the FSD directly reflect Ktunaxa laws and stewardship responsibility for the lands and resources ofʔamakʔis Ktunaxa. The Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) has prepared this FSD as an interim guide to assist Provincial Ministries and Forest Licensees in aligning forest management laws, regulations, policies, planning and practices withʔa·knumuȼtiⱡiⱡ (Ktunaxa law) and the Province’s legal obligations to the Ktunaxa First Nations.
Ktunaxa Nation Council Forestry Update

First Nations Consultation and Reconciliation

With the Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA) extension in place forest licensees must be referred to KNC. Some referrals are based on proximity to the specific Ktunaxa Nation, but all submissions are put into a Referral Management System (RMS) for KNC and the 4 Ktunaxa First Nations all to access. KNC reviews and refers submissions to the four Ktunaxa Nations (Band staff, Lands committees) as appropriate. KNC and/or the four Ktunaxa First Nations comment on proposals to express concerns, suggestions, traditional knowledge and landscape use planning. The referral process is meant to provide an opportunity for the Ktunaxa Nation Council and the four Ktunaxa First Nations to be properly consulted by developers and reduce conflicts.

Development proposals

There is a large volume of proposals throughout Ktunaxa ʔamaʔkis. They come from Woodlots, Community Forests, Forest Licensees within Timber Supply Areas, Recreation groups (ie. Heli ski, guide outfitters, etc.), Minor Tenures and Mine operators.

Current legislation put in place by the Province of British Columbia addresses the large volume of proposals. Such pieces of legislation include:

- Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)
- Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR)
- Higher Level Planning Orders (HLPO)

Unfortunately, these laws have not been satisfactory. There have been large protests in the past, with many ongoing. Some of these protests are due to:

- Job losses over the past three decades
- Automation of the sawmills
- A decline in wildlife populations
- Increase in Wildfires and wildfire intensity
- Poor job losses over the past three decades
- Automation of the sawmills

These concerns have resulted in the BC Government's proposal of a 'Modernization of Forest Policy in BC.'

Ktunaxa Forestry Standards Document (KNC FSD)

Forestry staff from the KNC and the Ktunaxa First Nations have developed a Forestry Standards Document. This document was exclusively created with ʔaʔaq̓am, Yaq̓it ʔaʔnuq̓liʔit, and Yaqan Nuʔkiy. Further, KNC is currently reviewing the KNC FSD with ʔakisʔnak First Nation as they renew their Forest Stewardship Plan for the ʔakisʔnak forest license. The document has also been reviewed by:

- KNC Wildlife Committee
- KNC Lands Advisory Committee
- KNC Lands and Resources Council
- KNC Fisheries department.

The KNC FSD was developed to aid in the 'Modernization of Forest Policy in BC' within Ktunaxa ʔamaʔkis and address the large volume of proposals that come in daily. It has been designed with standards set by the Ktunaxa people.

Some of the KNC FSD Impacts are:

- Reduced Old Growth harvest
- Increased retention for wildlife habitat
- More measurable and verifiable practices
- Increased awareness of FN values and their accommodation measures
- Increased use of FN practices (ex. prescribed burning)
- Reduced road densities
- Increased deciduous tree volumes
- Reduced waste
- Changes in prescriptions (ex. Ungulate Winter Range and Open forest)
- Climate change
- Other scientific discoveries/Improved technologies
- T’silicotin decision proving Aboriginal Title
- United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
Ktunaxa Nation Council Annual Report 2021/22

- Up to date Biogeoclimatic Ecological Classification Zones
- Forest Regeneration – Planting practices, brushing and herbicide measures, pesticides practices and harvesting when adjacent to previously harvested areas (increased heights of regen)

KNC would like all Ktunaxa Citizens to have a read of the KNC FSD and provide any suggestions or concerns to the KNC Forestry Authorizations Coordinator, Chris Joseph.

**KNC FSD Implementation**

KNC is looking for support/endorsement of the KNC FSD by Forest licensees, Parks Canada, Yukon to Yellowstone, Wildsight, Kootenay Connectivity Working Group, BC Caribou Recovery Working Group, neighbouring First Nations (Secwepmec, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Simpw, Pikani, Stony-Nakoda). Support from these groups could help ensure that the Ktunaxa peoples lead the stewardship of Ktunaxaʔamaʔkis.

There are barriers in the implementation of the KNC FSD. Currently, BC Provincial legislation is being changed to enable the implementation of UNDRIP and in turn the KNC FSD. This includes such bills as Bill 21 – Forest and Range Practices Act Amendment Act (2019), Bill 23 – Forest Statutes Amendment Act (2021), and Bill 28 - Forest Amendment Act (2021). It is possible that through the implementation of UNDRIP, KNC can potentially use the KNC FSD as a legislative measure that Forest Licensees must adopt into their Landscape Use Plans (LUP) or Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP).

**Timber Supply Reviews (TSR)**

Timber Supply Reviews are currently underway for Selkirk Timber Supply Areas. These TSRs will include certain variables of the KNC FSD to assess the potential economic and environmental impacts.

One of these variables is Old Growth Deferrals. The BC government proposed 2-year Old Growth Deferrals are being used for timber supply reviews and to give time for First Nations to develop their policy and procedures, and calculate future timber volume apportionment decisions.

The BC New Democrat Party (NDP) Government has promised to double the forest tenure held by FNs. Ktunaxa has demanded more than double the current tenure within Ktunaxaʔamaʔkis because they currently hold less than 4%ʔamaʔkis.

**Revenue Sharing**

On April 1, 2022 the Ktunaxa Revenue Sharing Agreement for the areas within the Selkirk and East Kootenay Districts seen an increase of its share from 5% to 10% as promised by the BC Provincial government. This is a great thing for the Ktunaxa Nation and its ability to participate in forestry decision making and building the Ktunaxa Forestry Sector.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions on anything forestry please don’t hesitate to contact us at the Cranbrook KNC Office. Chris Joseph, Forestry Authorizations Coordinator can be reached at chris.joseph@ktunaxa.org.
Economic & Investment Sector

Message from the Sector Chair – Josie Fullarton

Kiʔsuʔk kyukyit Q̓apiniskiǂ!

Coming through the pandemic has been a significant journey that is not over yet. I would like to extend immense gratitude to our front line teams for keeping us safe. I would also like to acknowledge the work that the Economic and Investment Sector Council has been able to see through during this time.

Our team is continuing to work on our business services programming and has issued several Micro-loans, is developing a new Business Grant program, and is continuing to promote and develop Ktunaxa Ready to be a tool for Ktunaxa First Nations and Ktunaxa Businesses to expand their reach with industry and the general public. We have also successfully held our first Economic Summit and were encouraged by the responses we received and the information that we are now able to take back and incorporate in our work. Expect to see our team building opportunities from the ground up based on your feedback.

The Economic & Investment Sector Council also completed their strategic planning session and identified the following three priorities to be incorporated in the Sector’s work plan: Financial Literacy Training for Leadership and Ktunaxa ?aq̓tsx̱máhn̓ín̓k, Capacity Development for Ktunaxa ?aq̓tsx̱máhn̓ín̓k, and highlighting the history of the Ktunaxa economy.

We are approaching the next year with a strong focus on developing internet connectivity for our citizens, procurement opportunity development, and increasing space for Ktunaxa in our regional economy. I encourage anyone interested in our work or requiring more information to reach out to one of our staff or watch for them in our Ktunaxa First Nations and at our events.

Economic & Investment Sector Director’s Message, Jason Andrew

Kiʔsuʔk kyukyit Q̓apiniskiǂ! Hu qakłık Jason Andrew. Hu ŋini Ktunaxa, hu ḱaki ḱaxi ?aʔam. I am the Director of the Economic & Investment Sector, and I am pleased to share the work that the sector has completed over the last year (2021/2022)! Firstly, I would like to introduce you to the Sector Council team who provides leadership to the Economic & Investment Sector.

Economic & Investment Sector Council

Josie Fullarton, Sector Chair, Yaqan Nuʔkiy
Allan Nicholas, ḱakisʔnuk
Nasuʔkin Joe Pierre, ḱaʔam
Nasuʔkin Heidi Gravelle, Yaʔit ḱaʔnuqɬiʔít

Economic & Investment Sector Staff

Shane Stewart, Manager
Janice Alpine, Business Development Officer
Marion Eunson, Industry Engagement Officer
Alexis Martig, Manager, Strategic Initiatives (term position)
Tanis Richmond, Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Jose Galdamez, Procurement & Business Development Officer
Shawna Vokey, Administrative Assistant

**Business Development**

The global Covid-19 pandemic that has been ongoing since 2020, still affected the work that the Sector provides on behalf of Ktunaxa and Indigenous people. The Economic & Investment Sector ensured that all information regarding supports from the federal and provincial governments during the Covid-19 pandemic were shared with Ktunaxa businesses and entrepreneurs in order to alleviate financial hardship during the economic downturn. Throughout most of the 2021/2022 fiscal year, the majority of work related to providing business development support was provided in a virtual format to ensure all KNC Covid-19 organizational and Ktunaxa First Nation’s protocols were being followed. The Economic & Investment Sector provides the following business development supports:

- Business Plan Development
- Financial Planning
- One-on-One Business Coaching
- Support to access capital funding
- Advocacy for Ktunaxa and Indigenous entrepreneurs and businesses
- Promoting and developing Ktunaxa and Indigenous entrepreneurs
- Assist entrepreneurs to navigate challenges

**Micro-lending**

The Micro-Lending Program supports Ktunaxa entrepreneurs to grow their businesses. The Micro-Lending program provides initial funding for up to $10,000 and can provide up to $25,000 over the businesses lifetime. The Micro-Lending Program resumed in May 2021 after being on a pause due to Covid-19. During the 2021/2022 fiscal year, the Economic & Investment Sector was able to provide Micro-Loans to three Ktunaxaʔaq̓ɫsmaknik.

If you are interested in knowing more about this micro-loan please reach out to Janice Alpine janice.alpine@ktunaxa.org or Shane Stewart shane.stewart@ktunaxa.org
ʔakisʔnuk Fiber Optic

The Economic & Investment Sector has secured funding from Pathways to Technology to improve fiber optic infrastructure for the Ktunaxa First Nations and to install fiber optic connectivity and accessibility to ʔakisʔnuk First Nation. The initial Phase 1 completion date to have fiber optic capability in ʔakisʔnuk was in the fall of 2021, but due to issues with contractors, the date has been pushed back to fall 2022. We are sourcing additional funding to complete the next phase and entire project for a summer 2023 completion date.

Community Connectivity (Free internet)

The Economic & Investment Sector has been negotiating with Columbia Basin Broadband Corp (CBBC) about the purchase of wholesale internet in order to allow FlexiNet to be more competitive with internet speeds and pricing. In order to eliminate economic barriers for Ktunaxa ʔaq̓stmaknik, the Economic & Investment Sector Council recently approved in principal, the allocation of economic development funds that the Economic & Investment Sector receives from revenue sharing agreements from industry to subsidize all FlexiNet internet costs for people living in each Ktunaxa First Nation. The Economic & Investment Sector staff are currently engaging with each Ktunaxa First Nation to see if providing free internet to each Ktunaxa First Nation aligns with each respective Ktunaxa First Nation’s priorities.

Ktunaxa Ready

The Ktunaxa Ready website showcases Ktunaxa businesses to promote short and longer-term business to business relationships. Ktunaxa Ready makes it easy to identify Ktunaxa businesses and the intent is to provide information and contact details to simplify the process of making direct contact.

Over the 2021/2022 fiscal year, Ktunaxa Ready business directory is proving to be a huge asset in assisting with delivering presentations to all the industries that include Fortis BC, BC Hydro, Teck, Columbia Power, Steel River Solutions, Kicking Horse Canyon Constructors, TC Energy and many more. Ktunaxa Ready highlights the Ktunaxa Businesses and entrepreneurs, showing these industries that the Ktunaxa are a large part of the local economy and do have the knowledge and capacity to undertake work on their projects. For Ktunaxa Businesses who would like to explore the benefits of Ktunaxa Ready, or if you have questions regarding the business director site, please contact Janice Alpine janice.alpine@ktunaxa.org or Shane Stewart shane.stewart@ktunaxa.org

Ktunaxa Regional Branding Initiative

Ktunaxa Regional Branding Initiative (KRBI) is a project that works to highlight the presence of the Ktunaxa within ʔamakʔiʔis Ktunaxa. Ktunaxa Partnerships have been developed with tour operators, provincial and municipal parks, RDEKs, Columbia River Treaty Heritage Project and Destination Marketing Organizations to enhance the knowledge of the Ktunaxa through interpretive signage and website and visitors guide methods.

Marketing the Kootenay region has increased collaboration with regional business service providers, including Community Futures East Kootenay, Cranbrook Tourism, Kootenay Rockies Tourism and Destination BC; Working with the City of Cranbrook and regional business operators and organizations to partner in initiatives that support the Ktunaxa.

- Creston Museum redesign and launch of the Ktunaxa Display
- Launch of signage at the Wilmer Wetlands
- ʔakisqakli·it interpretation on the City of Cranbrook Website
- Ktunaxa Interpretation at Lake Koocanusa
- Launch of #Ktunaxahomelands videos https://www.zenseekers.com/expedition/ktunaxahomelands
Ktunaxa Business Certification Policy

The Economic & Investment Sector have been working diligently over the 2021/2022 fiscal year to explore and create a Ktunaxa Business Certification Policy. The overall goal of this policy is to support and improve the Ktunaxa economic inʔamakʔis Ktunaxa by:

1) Ensuring that economic opportunities benefit in priority and substantially Ktunaxa businesses rather than non-Ktunaxa businesses.

2) Strengthening the Ktunaxa self-determination and governance through the control and regulation of the definition of “Ktunaxa business”.

In order to capture Ktunaxa input and voices into the business certification process, the Economic & Investment Sector conducted a total of 40 interviews with Ktunaxa entrepreneurs, Ktunaxa artisans, Ktunaxa First Nation Economic Development Staff, and leaders from the Ktunaxa First Nations. The interviews aimed to address the following topics: definition of a Ktunaxa business, looking at economic and cultural criteria; self-determination; how can the Economic Sector support the Ktunaxa entrepreneurs and communities

By using a research-based method, this phase of consultation has resulted in the production of significant data that has been informed by Ktunaxaʔaqⱡsmaknik. It has supported the sector to develop a draft of the Ktunaxa Business Certification Policy that will be presented to Ktunaxa Leadership so that they can make an informed decision about the definition of a Ktunaxa Business.

Ktunaxa 2022 Economic Summit

On March 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 2022 the Economic & Investment Sector held the 2022 Ktunaxa Economic Summit. The event was dedicated to listen to needs and priorities of the Ktunaxa First Nations. The Economic & Investment Sector was able to host Ktunaxa Leadership as well as Economic Development staff from Ktunaxa communities, to gain a better understanding of how the Sector can support community needs and priorities. The Economic & Investment Sector was able to create an implementation plan from the valuable feedback that was shared at the Economic Summit. This implementation plan will directly inform the Sector’s work plan in the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

On the second day of the Economic Summit, Chris Luke Sr. provided a presentation about the history of the Ktunaxa Economy and Carol Anne Hilton provided a presentation on Indigenomics, a book that she authored and each participant at the summit received a signed copy of her book. The Sector would like to acknowledge and thanks Chris Luke Sr. and Carol Anne Hilton for sharing your knowledge and for making the Economic Summit so meaningful!

The Economic Summit also included presentations from Ktunaxa Entrepreneurs who shared their business experiences with the participants. The Economic & Investment Sector would like to thank Faro Burgoyne and Emily, from Ravens Nest Resort and Campground, Bonnie Harvey, from Fry Bread for Fun$, and Mike Nicholas, from Pro-Active Safety & First Aid! Your business experience presentations have inspired us all, congratulations on all your success!
Industry Engagement/Procurement Opportunities

The Economic & Investment Sector has two formal revenue sharing agreement with Foraco Canada and with ATCO for projects specific to Qukin ?amakʔis. The KNC/Foraco agreement expires in 2023 and the KNC/ATCO agreement expires in 2024. The funds that the Economic & Investment Sector receive from these revenue sharing agreements are for economic and business development initiatives.

The Economic & Investment Sector is also involved in linking and leveraging economic opportunities for Ktunaxa businesses and Ktunaxa First Nations. The Economic & Investment Sector works with the following large industries within ?amakʔis Ktunaxa:
| BC Hydro | • Procurement opportunities,  
• Joseph Creek Substation  
• Natal Substation  
• Integrated Resource Plan & Comprehensive Plan review  
• Sponsorships |
| --- | --- |
| Canfor | • JMAC (Joint Management Advisory Committee)  
• Procurement sub-committee  
• Sponsorships |
| Columbia Power Corporation | • Waneta Expansion (WAX): Continuing Ktunaxa Interests (Section 9 Community Benefits Agreement, 2010)  
• Sponsorships |
| Fortis BC | • IGU (Inland Gas Upgrade Project)  
• IGU Contractor: Surerus  
• Long-term Resource Plan  
• Sponsorships |
| MOTI (Ministry Transportation and Infrastructure) | • KHCP4 (Kicking Horse Canyon Phase 4 Project)  
• KHCP4 Prime Contractor: Kicking Horse Canyon Constructors  
• Ktunaxa (Indigenous) Participation Plan review |
| Paper Excellence (Skookumchuck Pulp Mill) |  |
| TC Energy | • Foothills Pipe Lines (West Path)  
• Elko Section & Yahk Section and Ktunaxa First Nations, Ktunaxa businesses  
• Prime & Subcontractors: SMJV (Surerus-Murphy JV), Mur-Cal  
• Prime Contractor: BSR (Barnard-Steel River JV)  
• Sponsorships |
| Ktunaxa Nation-Teck Coal IMBA | • PEOWG (Procurement, Employment Operational Working Group)  
• PTG (Procurement Task Group)  
• IMT (Ktunaxa internal) IMBA Implementation Team |

I would like to thank the Economic & Investment Sector Council for the guidance and support that they provide to the Economic & Investment Sector and the Economic & Investment Sector Staff for all of the meaningful work that has been completed over the last year. Lastly, I would like to acknowledge all of the Ktunaxa and Indigenous entrepreneurs for all of their business achievements this past year. The Economic & Investment Sector is looking forward to the upcoming year where the sector can provide support to Ktunaxa ʔaq̓smaknik and Ktunaxa First Nations. ʔapi qapsin kin ḥitkin hin ḥisti Ktunaxa (Everything you do; you do for Ktunaxa)!